BAKEMONOGATARI
19
OH!GREAT
Original Story:
NISIOISIN
Original Character
Design: VOFAN

bakemonogatari.XIX

# BAKEMONOGATARI

OH!GREAT

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# MAIN CHARACTERS

## Tsubasa Hanekawa

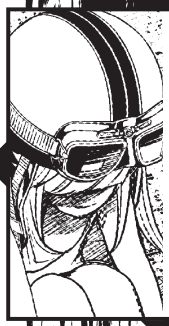
Koyomi's classmate, who has been bewitched by a cat. She's currently attempting to figure out her own emotions.

## Black Hanekawa

The aberration known as an Afflicting Cat, or *sawarineko*, which has manifested in Hanekawa.

## Koyomi Araragi

A boy and a "mockery of a vampire." He feels he owes a debt to Hanekawa and is now busy trying to save her from her suffering, but...



## Shinobu Oshino

A husk of a vampire, who was once called the "king of aberrations." She suddenly set off on a journey of self-discovery.

## Mèmè Oshino

A self-described expert on aberrations. He's been temporarily based out of the town of Naoetsu and often agrees to speak with Koyomi about his problems.

## Suruga Kanbaru

Koyomi's junior, who once made a wish to a monkey before being saved by him. She is now helping Koyomi find Shinobu.

# THE STORY SO FAR

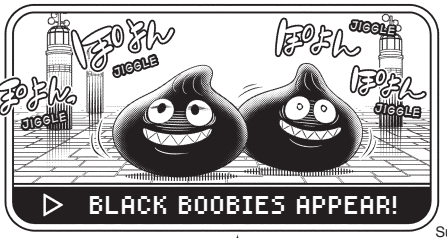
The aberration known as the Afflicting Cat has reappeared, even though the issue was thought to have been settled during Golden Week. And surprisingly, it was Hanekawa's unrequited feelings of love toward Koyomi that sparked the cat's return. Now, faced with Hanekawa's sudden confession of her feelings for him, Koyomi struggles to figure out what's going on. What's more, the way to solve her problem is to remove the root cause of her stress—Koyomi himself... But before he can even begin to process this shocking fact, the cat grabs Koyomi with all her strength—a parting embrace for the sake of her host, Hanekawa...

Chapter 5
Tsubasa Cat
BOOK DESIGN VEIA

Haah ...!
Don't get it wrong.
I didn't let my guard down.
I was plenty careful.
In my own way.
I was watching my back— and yet...
She's way...
...too fast!

SQUISH

...were now fangs sucking the energy out of me.




Even her two large, lovely bulges...

Kanji: Vitality / Lifeforce / Energy / Suction / Vigor

SLURCH
SLURCH
SLURCH

C-Cat...
Do you really think...that killing me...
...will make Hanekawa happy?
Whatever I do— she'll furget.
My myaster...
...won't think that she killed you.
After all, her parents kept on abusing her...
...and she even furgot the fact—that they didn't love her.

During Golden Week— I failed.
I didn't kill my myaster's parents out of consideration fur her.
So in the end— nyothing got solved—meow.
Even all the energy that flowed into me at Kita-Shirahebi Shrine's mountain... has been sucked away.
as her cat's tongue scrapes away at my body.
She's scraping away every last bit of my energy—
SLICE
Oww ?!
So this time, I'll be sure— to kill.

O-Of course... Earlier...
That unnatural hug from her...
So it was a strategy... to deplete my energy in advance?
It's all part of her plan— that's just like Hanekawa!
Hm?
No... Wait a second.
At some point, I started treating the cat...
...as a separate personality from Hanekawa. But...
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
The mirror of a mirror image...
...is just the image itself.
Ulti-mately ...
...if you keep flipping things around— Hanekawa is the cat, and the cat—is Hanekawa...
Then maybe it's Hanekawa—who actually wants me to die.

...
Well... all right, then...
...I guess it's fine if I die.
Sign: Nao Town Main Street
Eight Corp Hearing Aids
If I could die...
...for the sake of Hanekawa's smile—
If it's what Hanekawa wants.
I'll do anything for Hanekawa's sake.
But I'm sure that in no time—she'll forget.
She'll probably feel a little lonely if I'm gone.
Oblivion

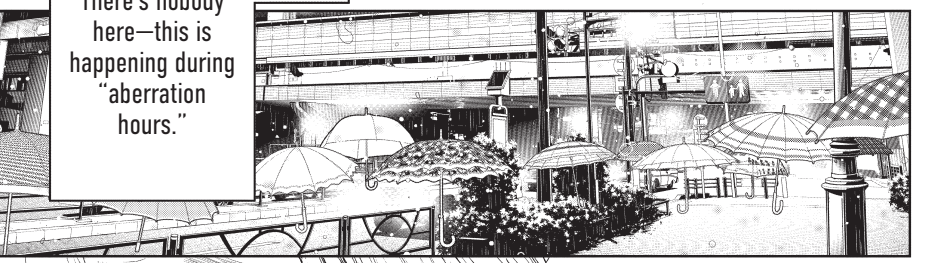
Graffiti: Whore / Warning!!! Suspicious person

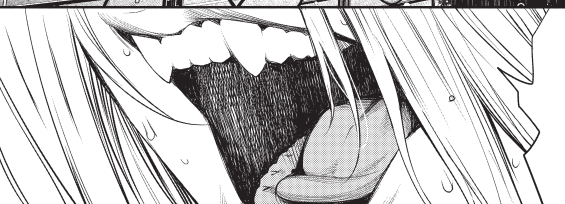
SUNDAY ABO-N
The End of a Harem
Hot & Heavy!
A sea of blood on the scene!
Romance gone wrong?! The grisly murder of two classmates!
A brilliant class president loved by all... Why?!
DEAD
GIRL H
MURDER
DEAD
BOY A
Relations with multiple girls?!
Friends (affair?)
Friends
DATING
MURDER
Murder Accomplice
GIRL S
GIRL K
Junior
I hope you don't think you're free now just because you died, Miss Hanekawa. I'm about to take your filthy stinking *** and *****
If Hanekawa kills me— I'm certain...
...then I'm yanking it out and shoving a ***** inside your ********
...Senjo-gahara will kill her in return.
L... Let go...
Hrmm? Begging fur your life?
Well, I could let you go if you purromise to start going out with my myaster.
She—would do it. I'm certain she would.
And if Hanekawa was human again, there'd be no way for her to stop it...!
That... I can't do, but...
I don't really have time to explain...

Huh? Someone...? Like who? Hachikuji? Sengoku? Kanbaru?

Nyohing all the people you've gone around and saved until nyow...

They won't come. There's nobody here—this is happening during "aberration hours."

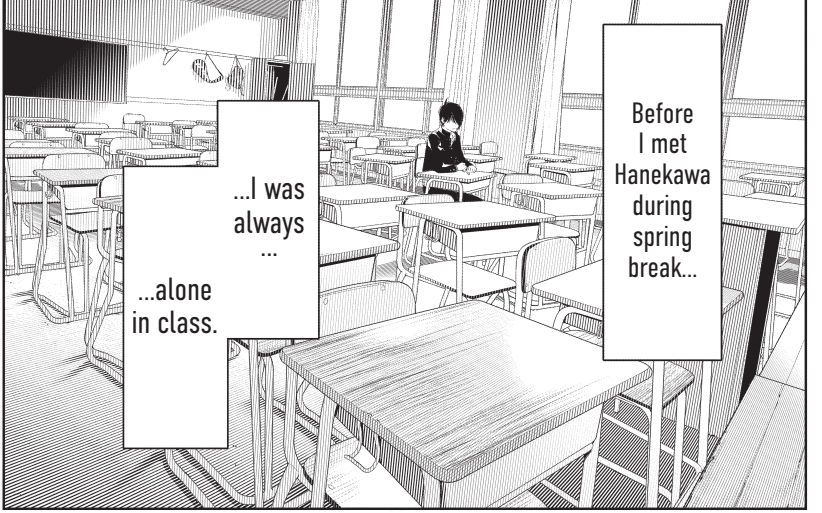


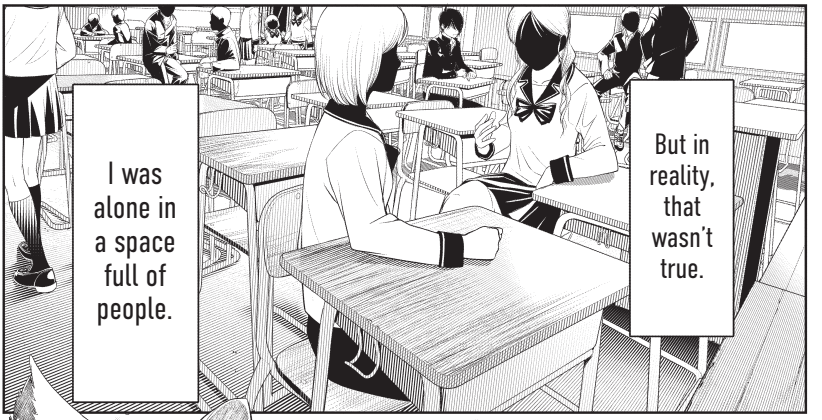


Seeing you cry out like a pathetic baby would also be a relief fur me!

that
I'm used to.

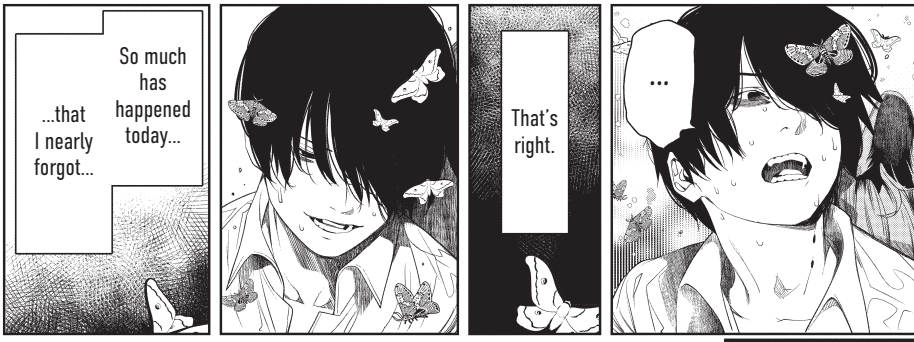
Nobody
noticing is
something—

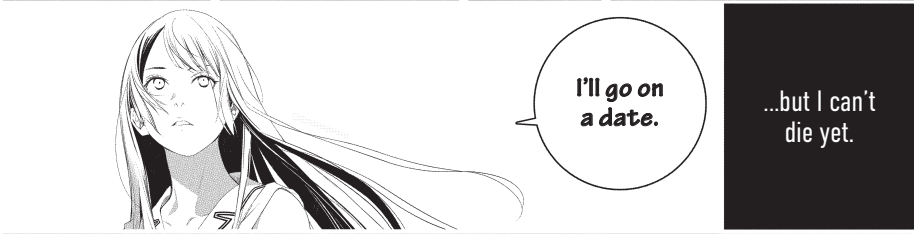

Before I met Hanekawa during spring break...
...I was always ...
...alone in class.


But in reality, that wasn't true.
I was alone in a space full of people.

So...
... what if they do?
Nyohbody pays attention to someone like you,
and that's why you have to fix everything on your own? Is that what you're saying?

...been saving everyone and completely ignyoring people's circumstances while doing that.
You've...
Why would you care about that if you're the purrson doing the saving?


...that I nearly forgot...
So much has happened today...
That's right.
...


I'll go on a date.
...but I can't die yet.

or at least, the day it's supposed to end!! So...
The day my personal hell comes to an end—
Today is Tuesday, June 13.

Some
bodyy
yyy
!
KANBARU BANK
MYLORD
2
Naoets
UNIQLO

Please save me!!!

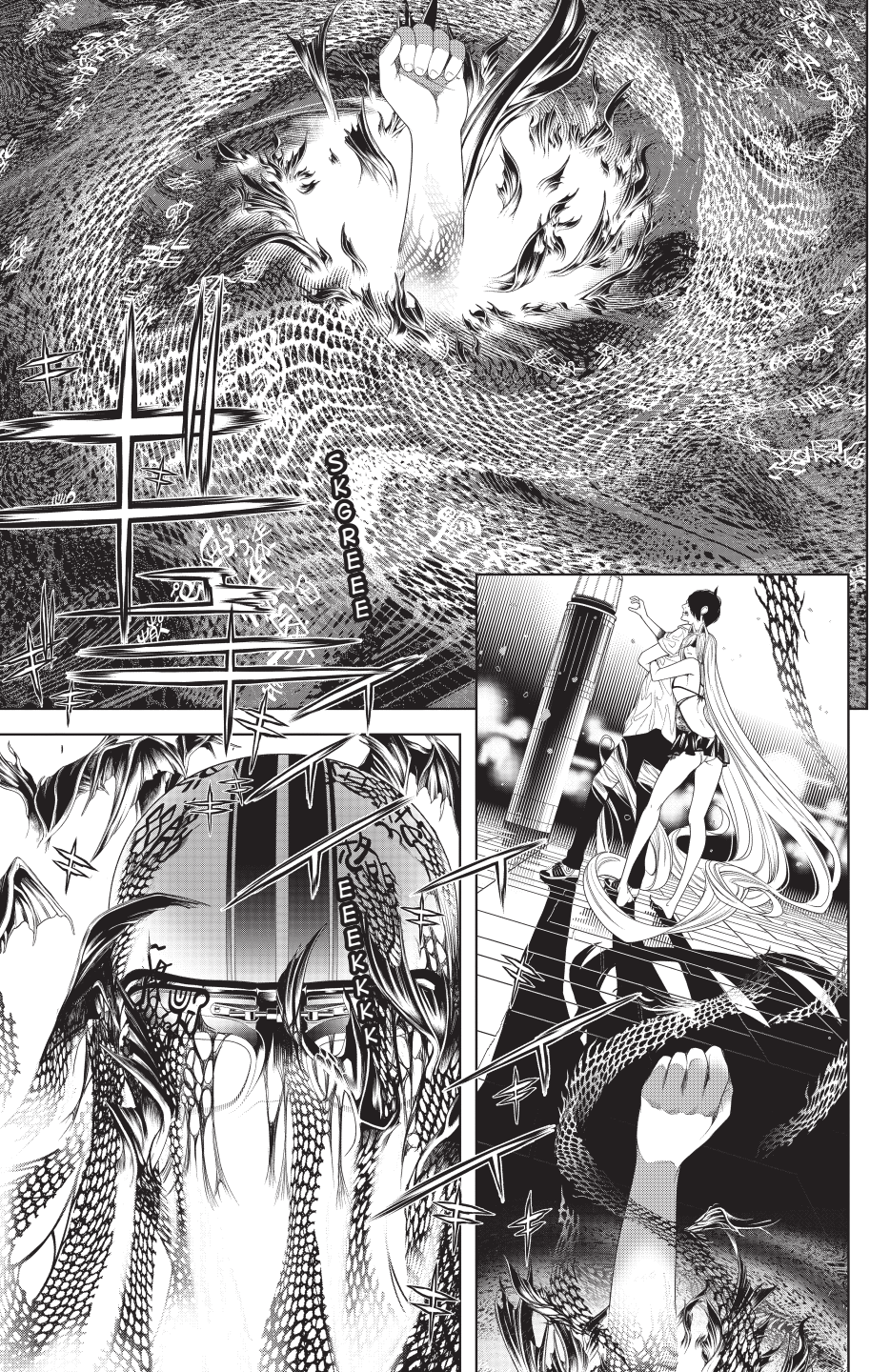
Save —
Please!
Some-body!
Please save me!

Some-body!
Isn't anybody there ?!
KANBARU BANK

DON'T
Sa e
me!
me!
die!
I'm

Some-
body...
Some-
body,
some-
body,
some-
body!
No, no,
no, no!
Please!
WANT
Please,
no, no, please,
Any-
body
.....!!!

In that mo-ment ...
Shi-nobu.
Save me.
...but I don't know why her name came out of my mouth.
...I called for Shinobu ...


SKGREEE
EEEKKKKK

*...where she is.*

*Hanekawa knows...*

She was there from the very start...!
Inside... my shadow...
MEOW.
The one who could save me— she was there...
...from the very start.

She was here...

...this close to me.

化 *bake*

物 *mono*

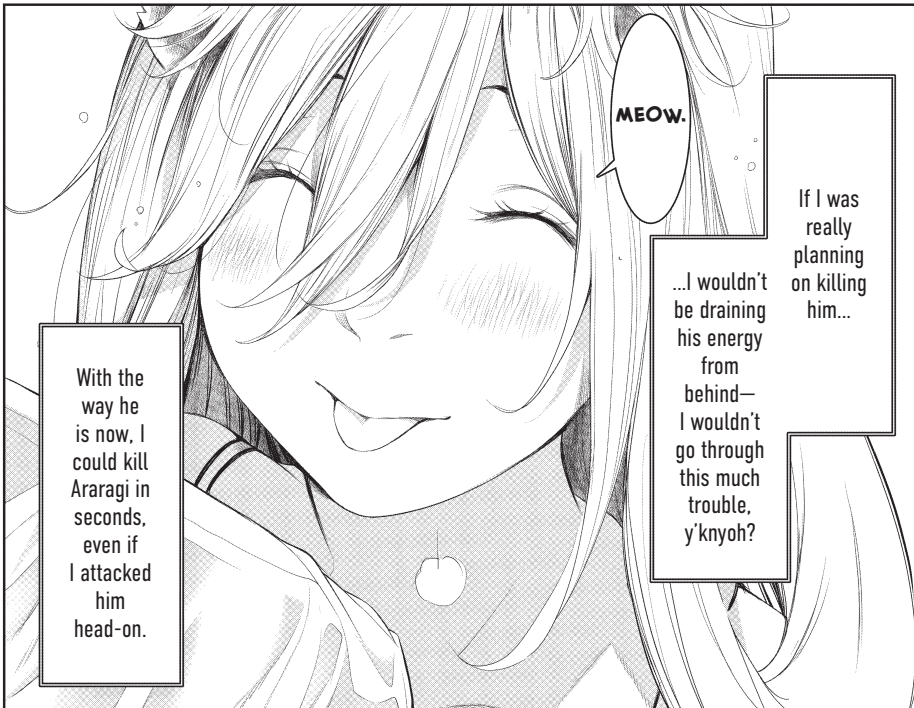
*TSUBASAcat*

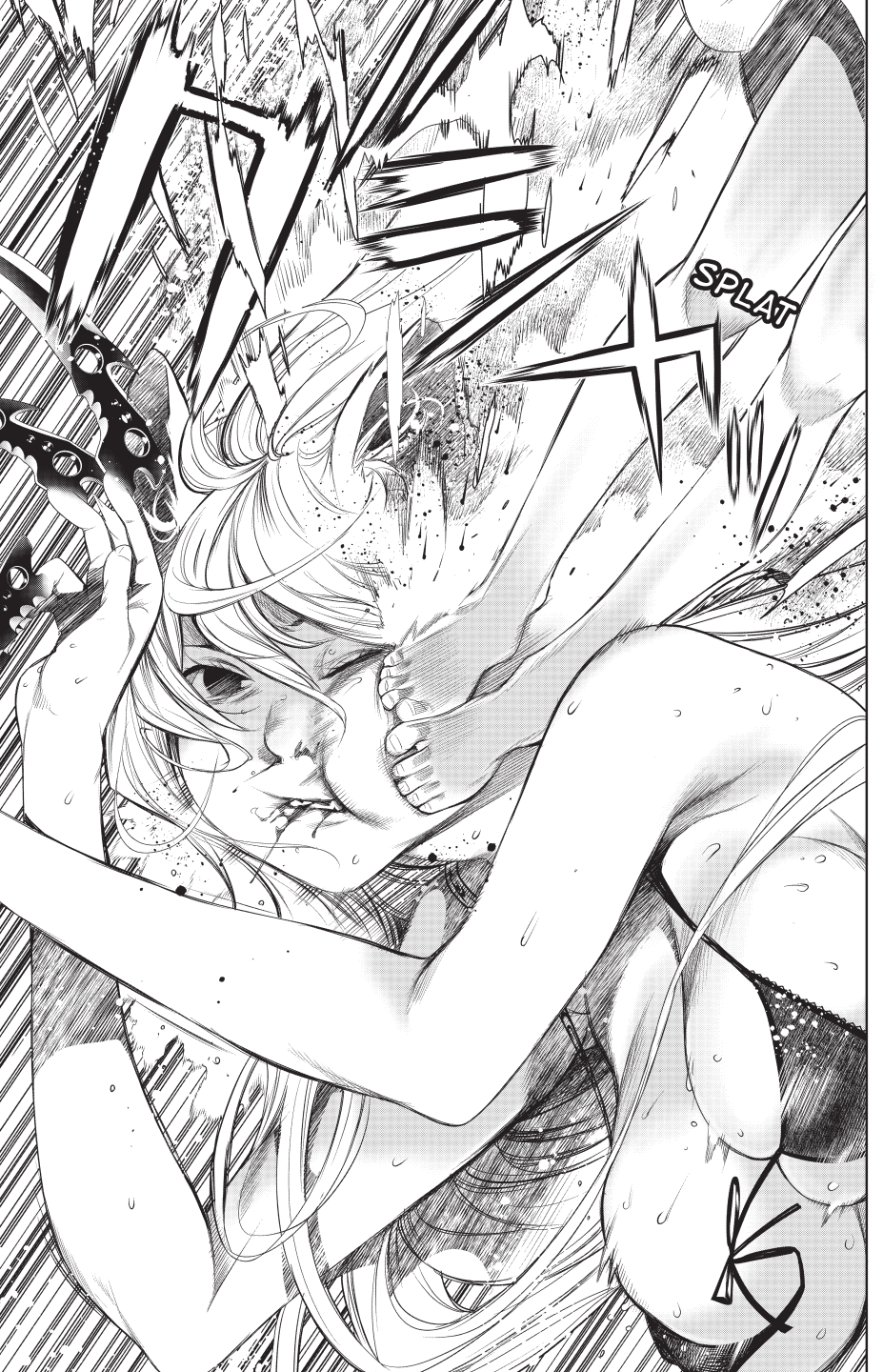
19

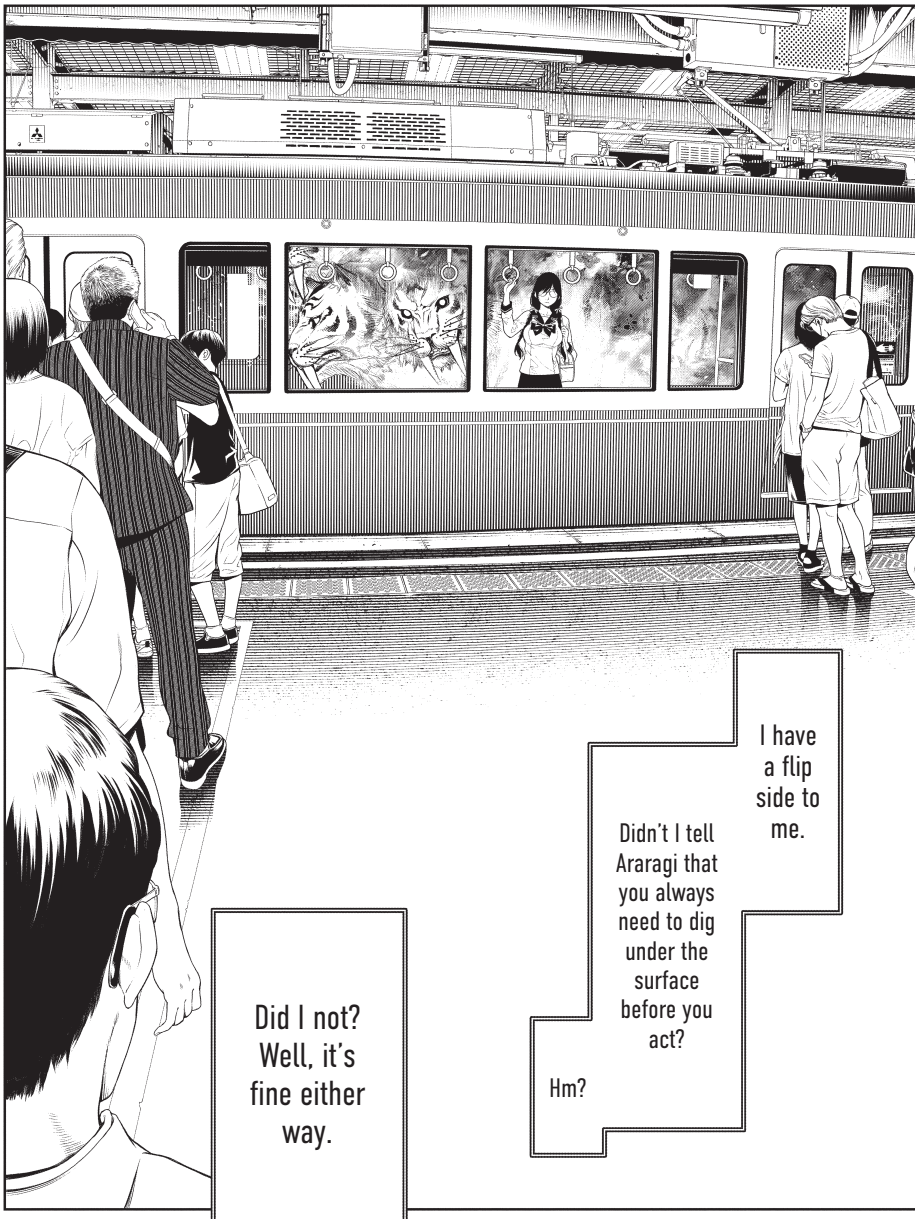
語 *gatari*

SKOREE
EEE
EEKKKK
Shi-nobu ...!
Yep.
Seems like it.

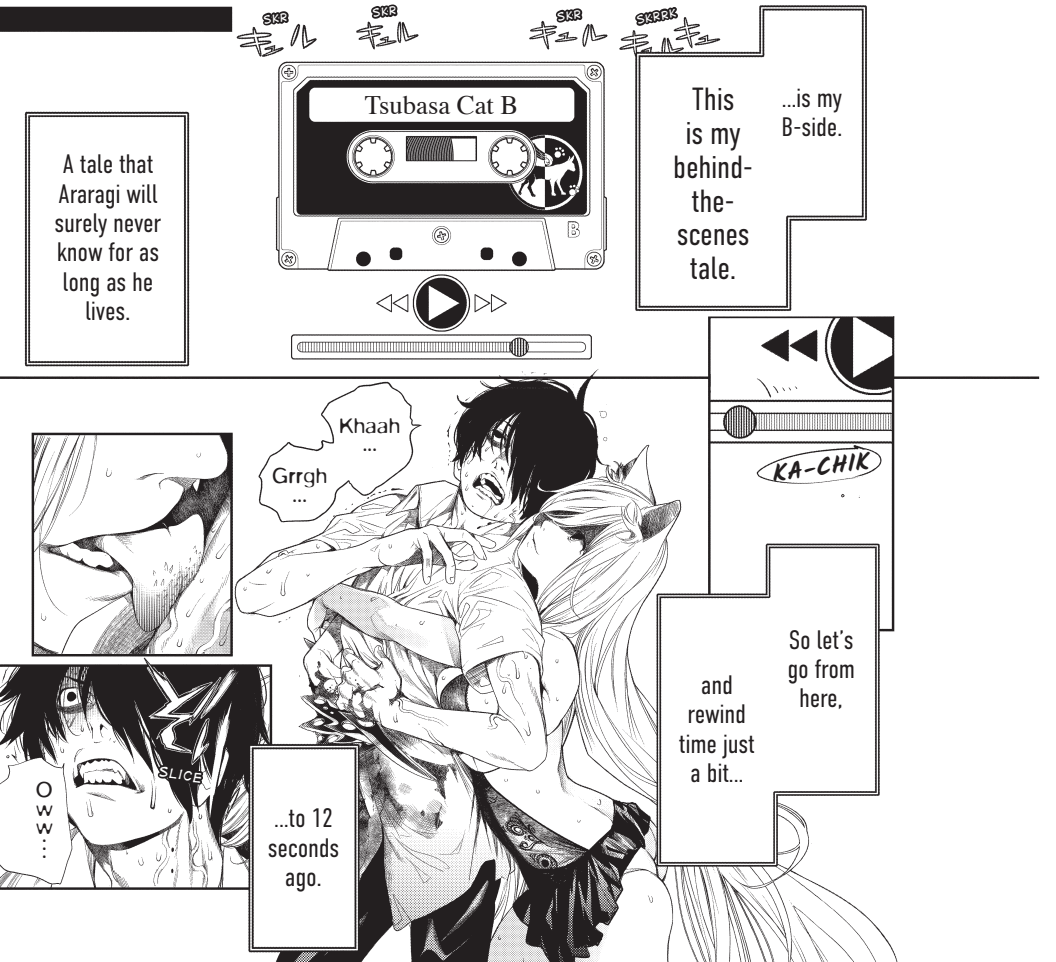
I mean, you don't cast a shadow if you're right below a streetlight.
It only takes a little bit of thinking to figure that out, right?
Below what?
YEP, YOU'RE RIGHT BELOW IT NYOW!
YEP— KEEP GOING A LITTLE MORE!
I guess Araragi ...
...finally noticed.
Ah...!


With the way he is now, I could kill Araragi in seconds, even if I attacked him head-on.
...I wouldn't be draining his energy from behind— I wouldn't go through this much trouble, y'knyoh?
If I was really planning on killing him...
MEOW.

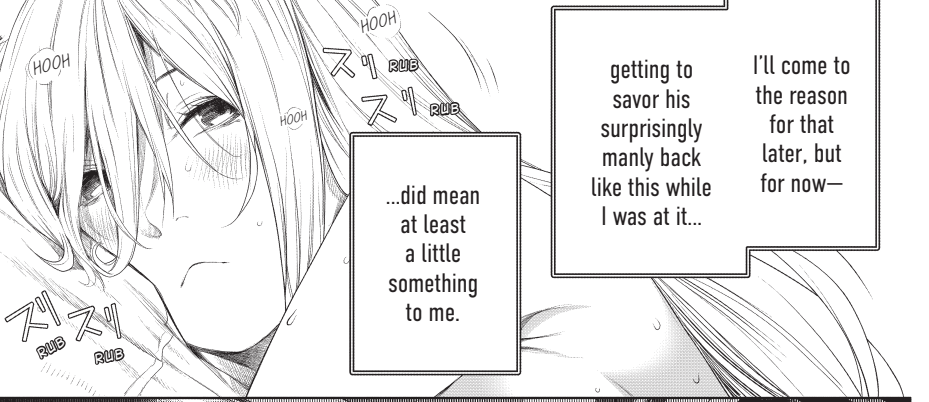

SPLAT

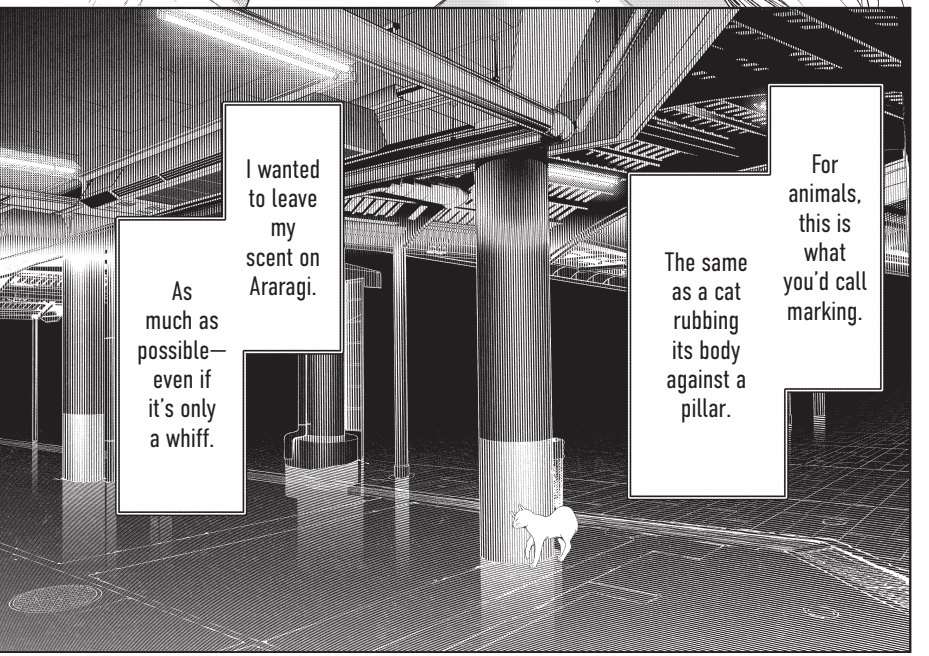

I have a flip side to me.
Didn't I tell Araragi that you always need to dig under the surface before you act?
Hm?
Did I not? Well, it's fine either way.

And that's why this...

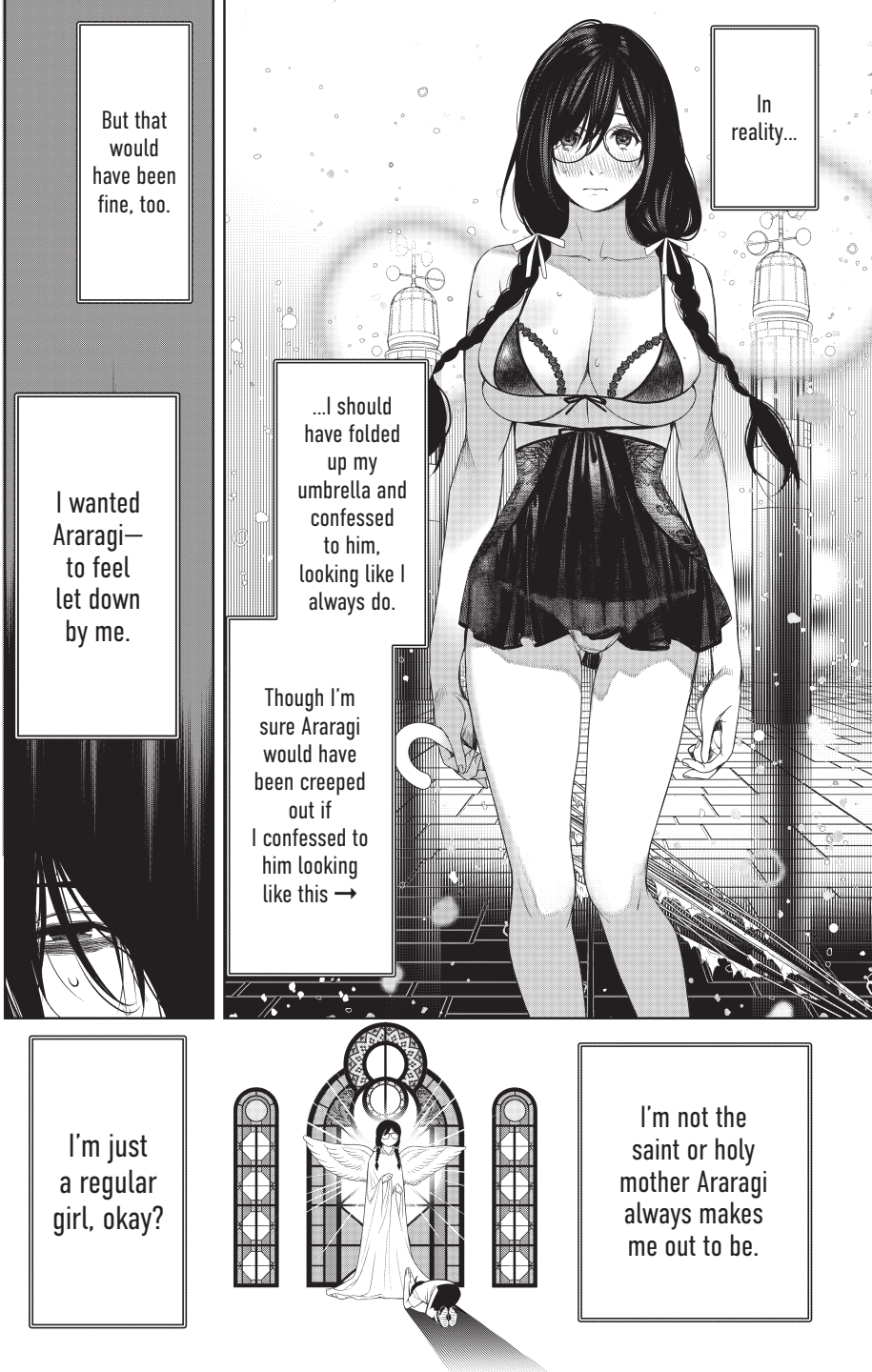

SKR キュル
SKR キュル
SKR キュル
SKRRK キュルキュ
Tsubasa Cat B
B
This is my behind-the-scenes tale.
...is my B-side.
A tale that Araragi will surely never know for as long as he lives.
KA-CHIK
So let's go from here,
and rewind time just a bit...
Khaah ...
Grrgh ...
SLICE
Owww...
...to 12 seconds ago.

...
...
No.
I lick the nape of Araragi's neck.
It's not like I did it for any reason I should feel guilty about.
SHIVER
I can't say for sure that I didn't have any of those kinds of feelings at all, but at this moment, there was a need for me to get Araragi's blood.
I love you!
SMOOCH
I love you!
I love you!
TREMBLE
TWITCH
JOLT
FLAP


HOOH
HOOH
HOOH
スリ RUB
スリ RUB
スリスリ RUB RUB
...did mean at least a little something to me.
getting to savor his surprisingly manly back like this while I was at it...
I'll come to the reason for that later, but for now—

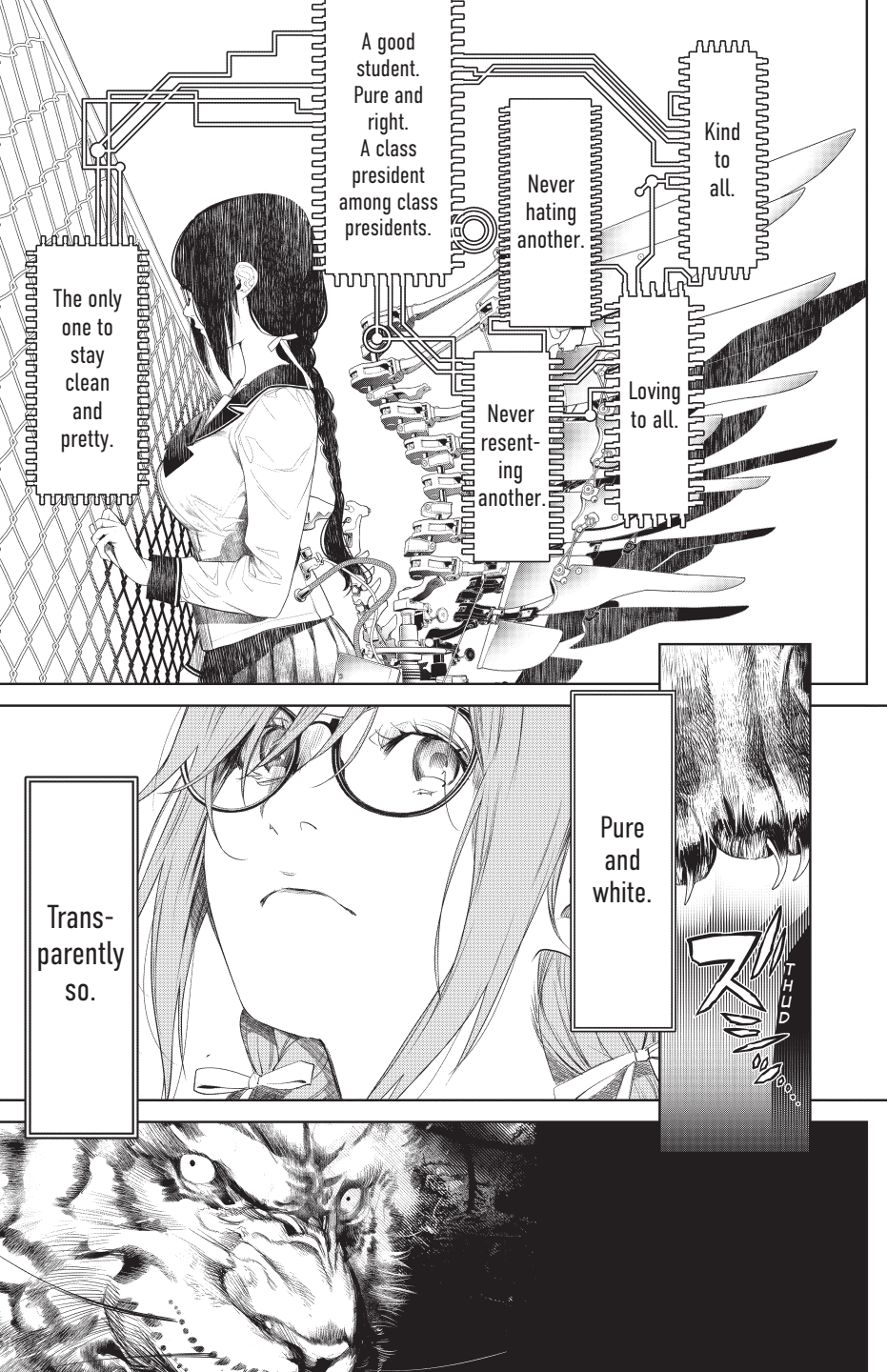

I wanted to leave my scent on Araragi.
As much as possible— even if it's only a whiff.
The same as a cat rubbing its body against a pillar.
For animals, this is what you'd call marking.

Oh.
But he'd throw away a shirt this tattered in no time.
Well, that's fine. This is nothing more...
...than a selfish little pleasure.


But that would have been fine, too.
I wanted Araragi— to feel let down by me.
In reality...
...I should have folded up my umbrella and confessed to him, looking like I always do.
Though I'm sure Araragi would have been creeped out if I confessed to him looking like this →
I'm just a regular girl, okay?
I'm not the saint or holy mother Araragi always makes me out to be.

I mean, as things stand now, I'm getting all the glory, right?

No, no, no, no!
Please!
How willing he is to face his own flaws.
Araragi is just so dazzling to me.
How strong ...
...he is.
I don't know anyone else like that.


A good student. Pure and right. A class president among class presidents.
Never hating another.
Kind to all.
The only one to stay clean and pretty.
Never resenting another.
Loving to all.
Pure and white.
THUD
Transparently so.

GWOOSH
SMAK
...
...!
I...

...made a decision.
To put an end to all that.
...Hahah.
I...
...want to become—like Araragi.

And here...
Got a job for me?
Tsubasa Cat
KA-CHIK
...we rewind "my" time a little more...
You're the only one...
...I could rely on.
...to 2 hours, 45 minutes, and 15 seconds ago.

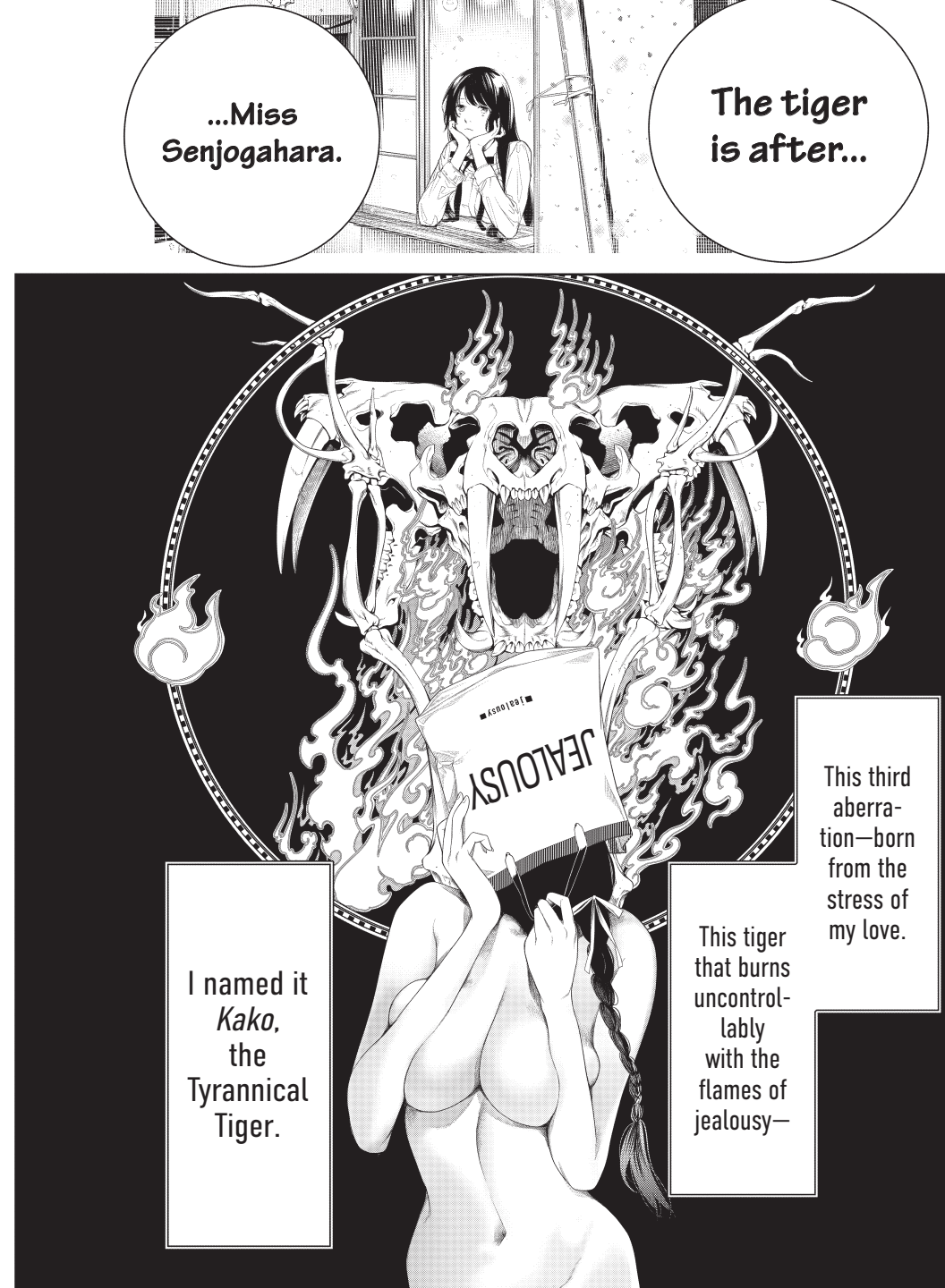
And so— I'm saying this to someone for the first time in my life.
Save me.
Please save me.
Please.
I beg of you.
BWOOF

I want you to tell me how to exorcize...
...the flaming, three-headed tiger inside of me.
Ha hah.
That's a tough one.
While this isn't quite the Zen riddle about the quick-witted priest Ikkyu being asked by the shogun to rid him of a tiger on a folding screen,
my answer's the same. "My lord, would you please first bring the tiger out?"

But...
...every second matters right now.
Or if it was something I could deal with myself—then yes, that would be the right thing to do.
If that tiger—is just a problem *inside me.*
My, my.
Are you telling me—that our shogun really did bring this tiger out?
Now that *is* an issue.

Tsubasa Cat B
B
Back to that mo-ment.
36 days, 12 hours, 32 minutes, and 46 seconds ago.
When Araragi and Miss Senjogahara first met.
Back to that morning.
Oh.

Just as their time together began then.
So, too— must this countdown have begun.
FWOOF
KSSHH


...Miss Senjogahara.
The tiger is after...
JEALOUSY
This third aberration—born from the stress of my love.
This tiger that burns uncontrollably with the flames of jealousy—
I named it *Kako*, the Tyrannical Tiger.

182 hours, 32 minutes, and 52 seconds ago.
Tsubasa Cat B
AUTO CLEANER
The cleaning robot that's been set to go into action every morning at six...
...faithfully wakes me up as it always does.
Good morning.
KLONK
AUTO CLEANER

Mmmh!
In an unusual turn for me,
I wake up this morning feeling incredibly refreshed.
Mm-hm! ♡
—Of course.
That was because—the cat released my stress the previous night.

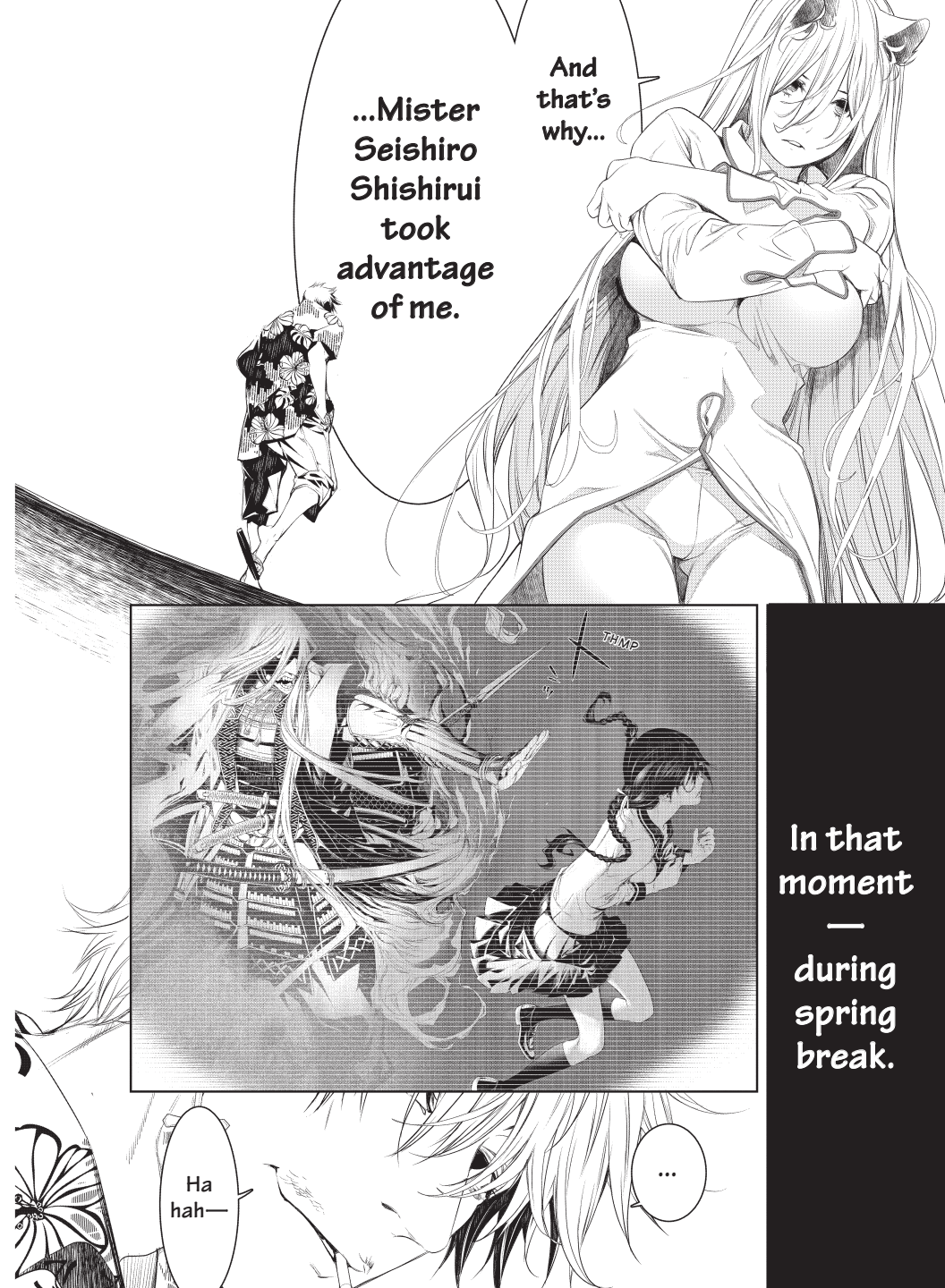
# BAKEMONOGATARI

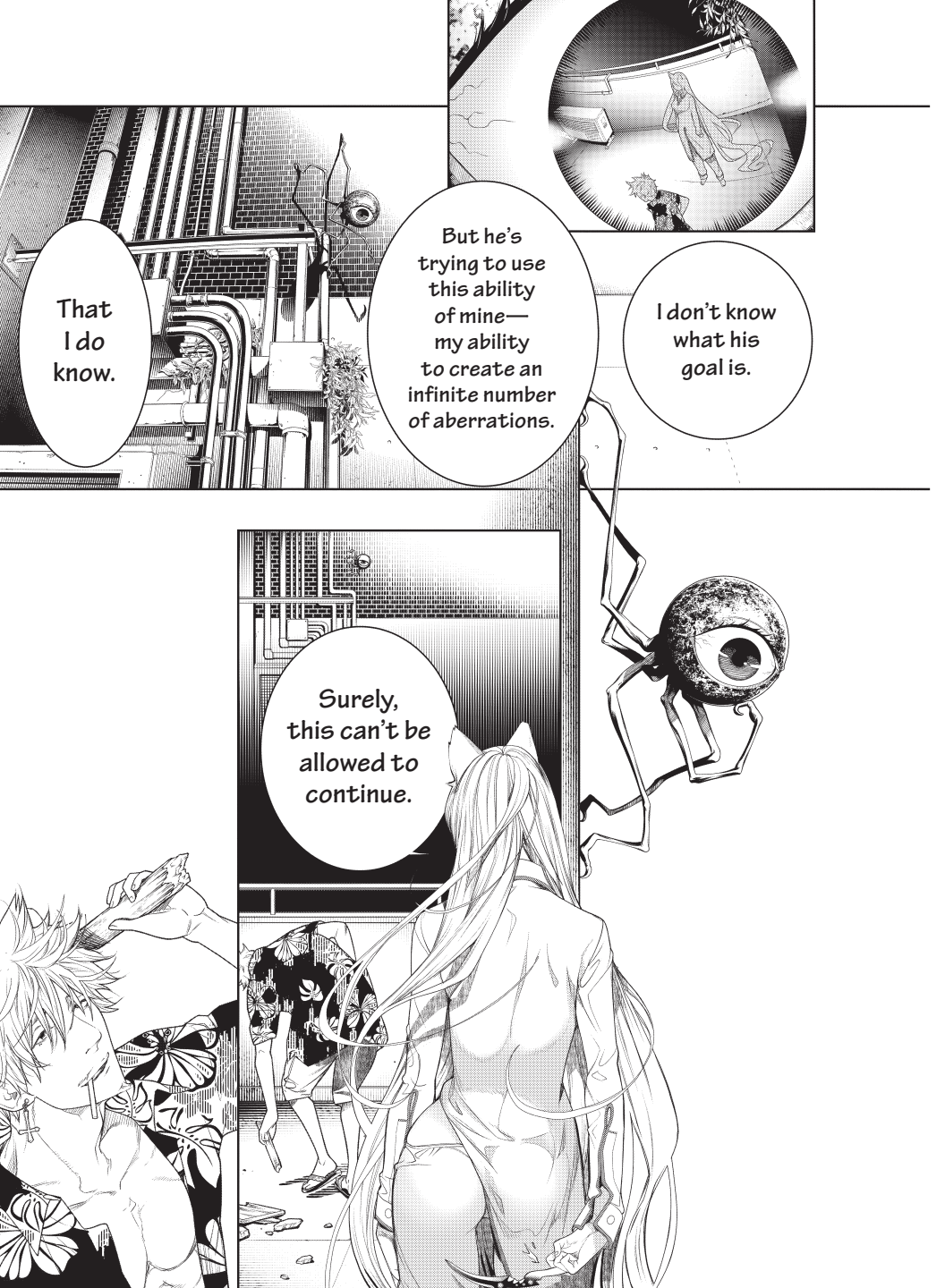
WOO-HOOO!
KA-BOOM
My "little sister" is reckless—but deep down, she's a gentle aberration.
I might have broken down a long time ago... if not for her.
WHAT N'JOY'N?!
She was born...to protect me.
And does the same go...for our little tiger?
That aberration exists to remove anyone I feel jealousy toward... It exists to attack!
The Tyrannical Tiger—is different.

I'm just barely able to hold it back for now...
But not for much longer.
I'm sure it will eventually come out and burn every target of my jealousy to ashes.
Ha hah —
Mind if I ask a question?
So you're telling me you knew about the tiger's existence but didn't do a thing about it for a month.

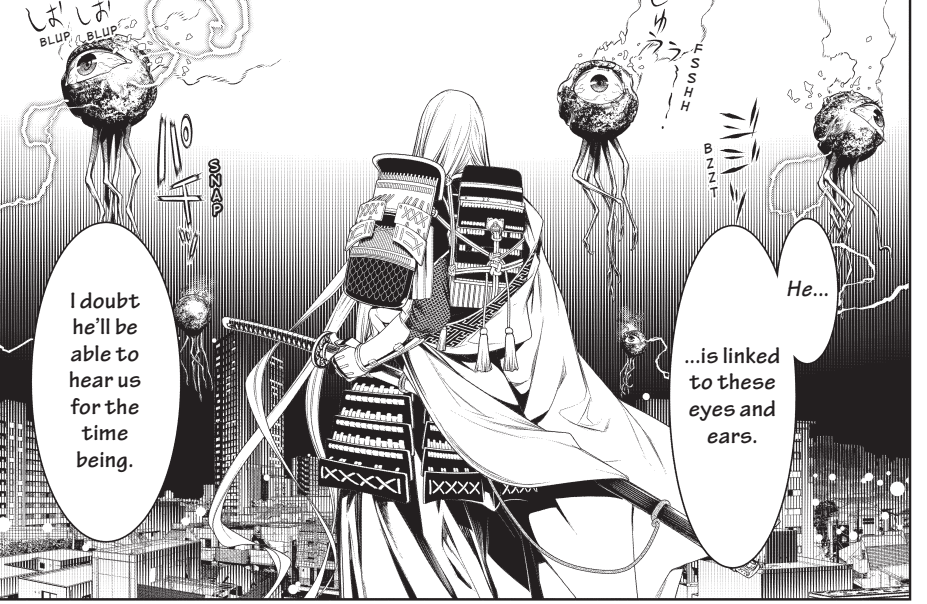
Maybe you were looking forward...
...to the people in your way *disappearing mysteriously*— no?
HUP
I've never once heard of an aberration called a Tyrannical Tiger.
It's probably a new breed that you gave birth to... And *you're the only one who knows* it burns those you're jealous of.
In other words... this so-called Tyrannical Tiger *is an aberration that was born because that's what you desired.*

...
Mgh.
If it were the old me—the person I was before now...
...I'd have worked hard to take those feelings, disgorged them from my heart...
...and swept them away.
But I didn't realize what I was doing.
I was fostering aberrations. It didn't seem possible—not in my wildest dreams. And I was willfully ignorant of what was happening.
To stay clean and white,
I had been throwing my heart away like it was trash.
All this time, the person who'd been abusing me more than anyone else—was me.

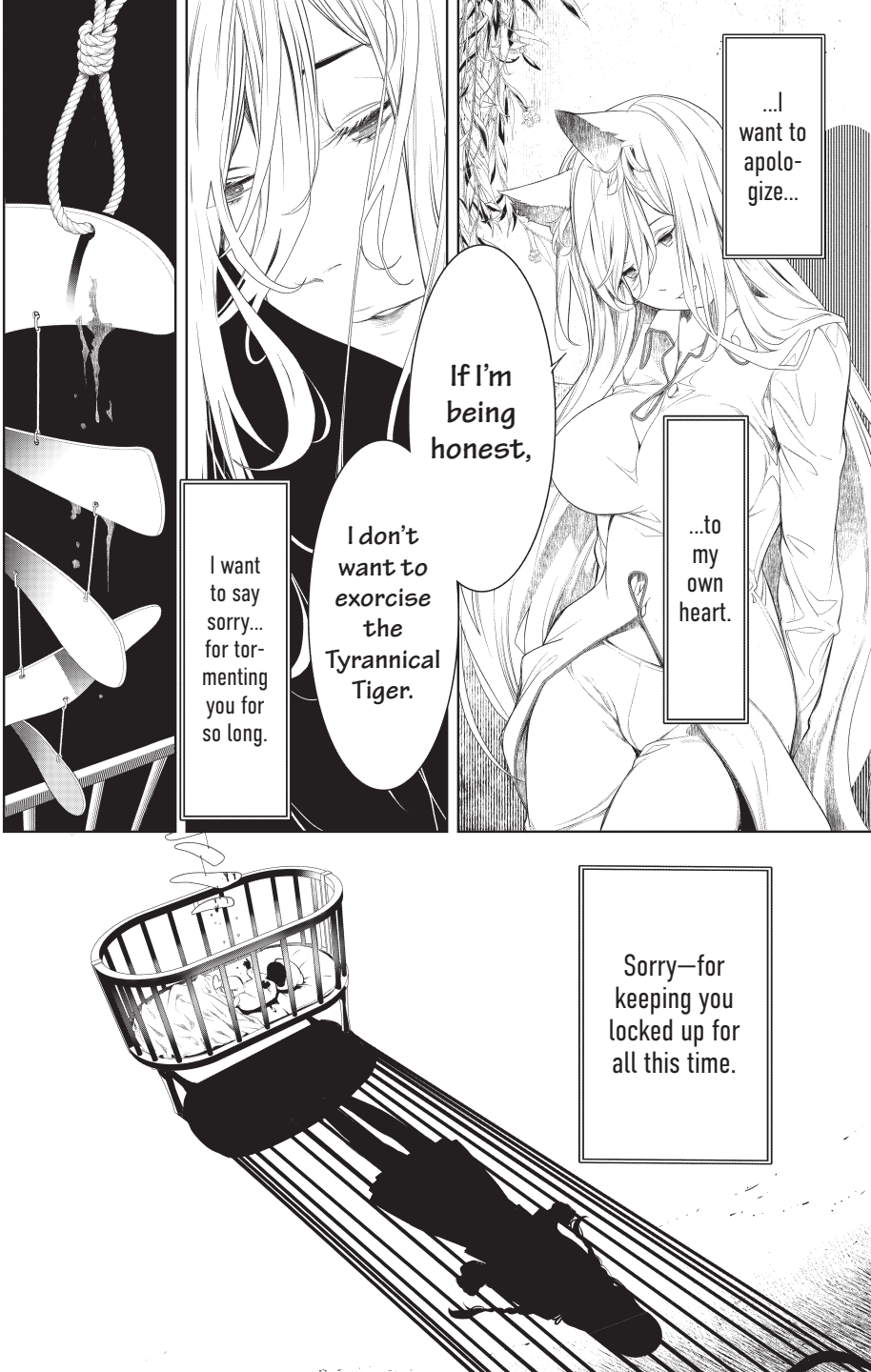

And that's why...
...Mister Seishiro Shishirui took advantage of me.
THMP
In that moment — during spring break.
...
Ha hah—


That I do know.
But he's trying to use this ability of mine— my ability to create an infinite number of aberrations.
I don't know what his goal is.
Surely, this can't be allowed to continue.

ZSSHK
CHOMP
SCREEE
FWOOSH
I've absorbed its spiritual energy using the cat's abilities.
Sorry, I thought you might miss with your left hand.
You're right-handed, aren't you?
DRIP
DRIP
しおしお
Man... I can't believe you'd put that in your mouth.

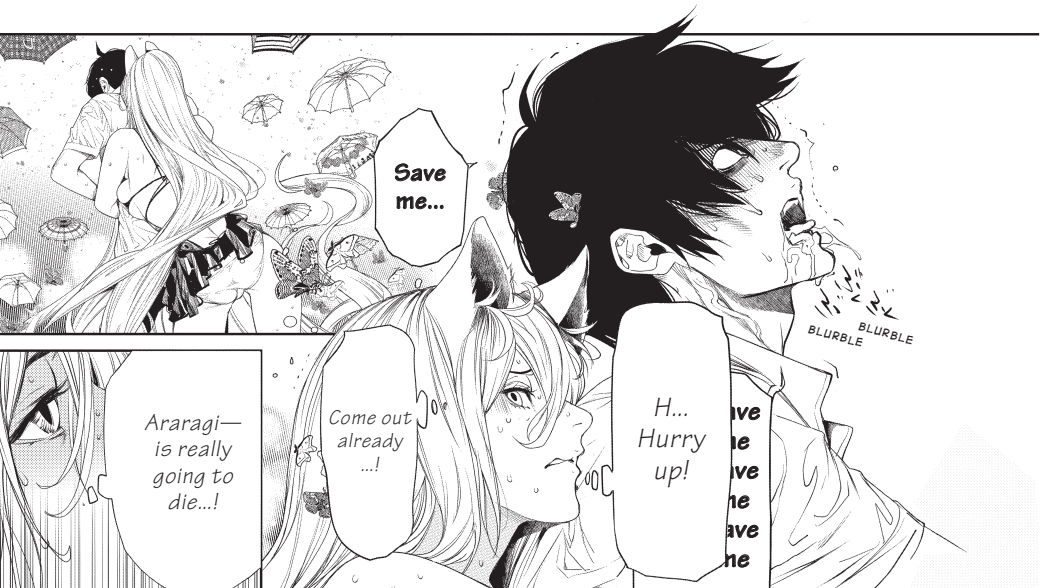

しお しお
BLUP BLUP
SNAP
I doubt he'll be able to hear us for the time being.
He...
...is linked to these eyes and ears.
BZZT
FSSH

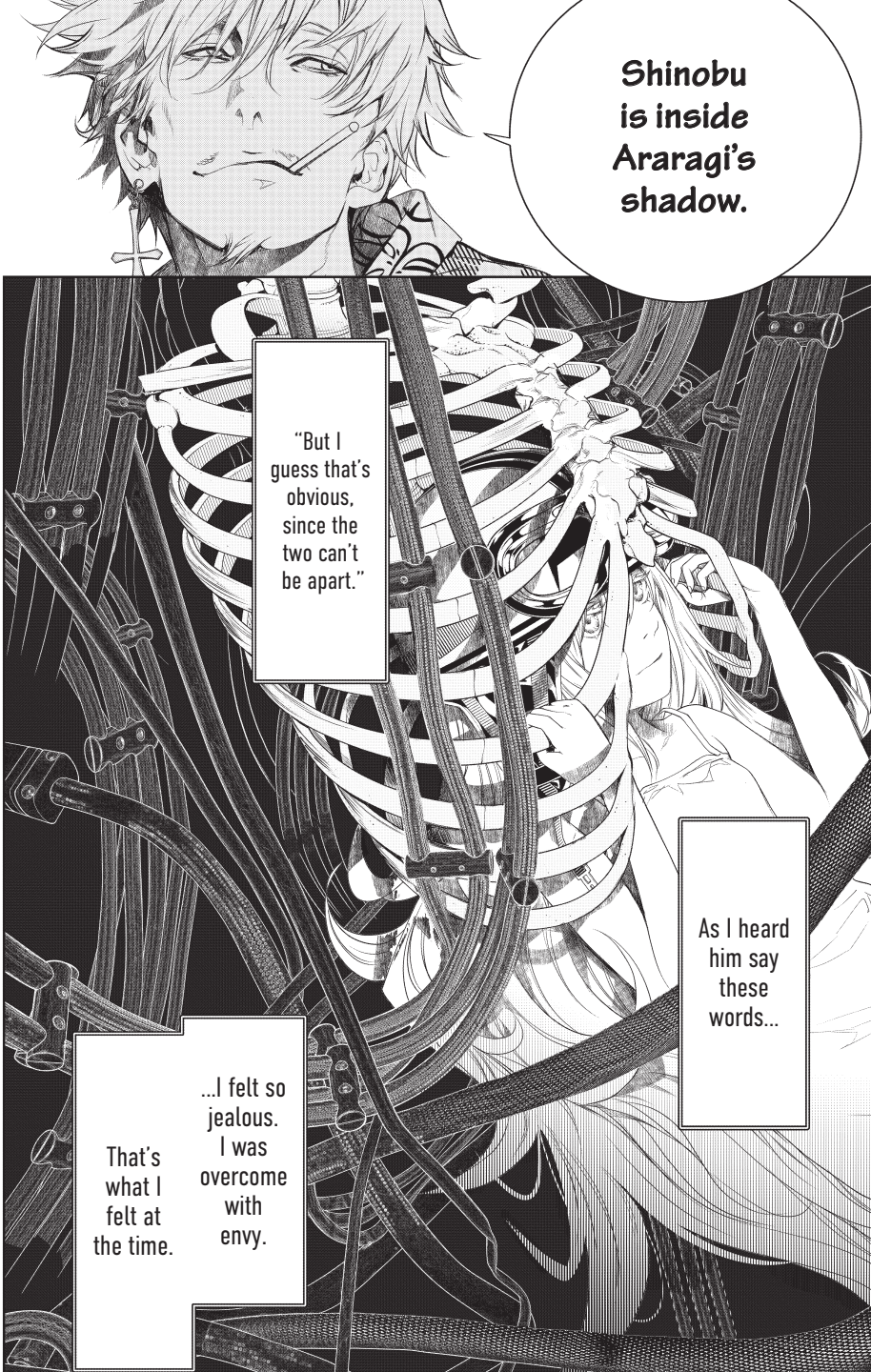
POP
Ha hah—
You really do know everything.
I don't know everything.
That's why...
I'm like a newborn child, if anything.
And when it comes to the things I don't know,


...I want to apolo-gize...
...to my own heart.
If I'm being honest,
I don't want to exorcise the Tyrannical Tiger.
I want to say sorry... for tor-menting you for so long.
Sorry—for keeping you locked up for all this time.

23 seconds ago, when I was finally ready to write the first line of my tale.

Okay—with that out of the way,




Shinobu is inside Araragi's shadow.
"But I guess that's obvious, since the two can't be apart."
As I heard him say these words...
...I felt so jealous. I was overcome with envy.
That's what I felt at the time.

So, Tyrannical Tiger,
I come to you humbly.
My very own heart...
...that I once tried to throw away.
SORRRRRRK
I accept you, my jealousy.
So, please ...
You ...
You made it just in time.
Please— don't leave me.
SORRK

BOOM
GWOOSH
Aahh!

Agh ...!
GRRK
TWITCH
Onh!
GRIND
GRIND
GRIND
GRIND
Orrgh!
GRRRK
GWOOSH
BLHORB!

SPLAP!
Only I remained pure and white—clean and pretty...
...all while giving birth to so many monsters.
I decided that I wouldn't do that any longer.
I think it will mean that I'll come to hate others.
That I'll be hated, and that I'll be unable to forgive others.
That I'll come to resent others.

BWOOSH
I might become dumber.
I might not be able to laugh anymore.
But—that's why I want to ask you.
When you leave, let's leave together.

I'm sure that Araragi...
...will be able to accept that, too.
Because that's—the kind of person he is.
Oh, God.
SPLAT
I'm so jealous.
1032:50
Tsubasa Cat B

Khaak...!
BAKEMONOGATARI
You're gonna have to make Shinobu angry, after all.
Well yeah, it's gonna hurt.
It hurts.

BOOM
PACHINKO & SLOT
Z-origin
Z-オリジン
SWITCH
PACHINKO
It hurts.
I'm scared.
Ouch.
Owww!
KRAAASH
KRAK
POP

He made *that* face when he saw my underwear, and yet...
Really ?
I can't believe Araragi.
PACHINKO
SLOT
...he's always doing this kind of thing.
It's amazing.

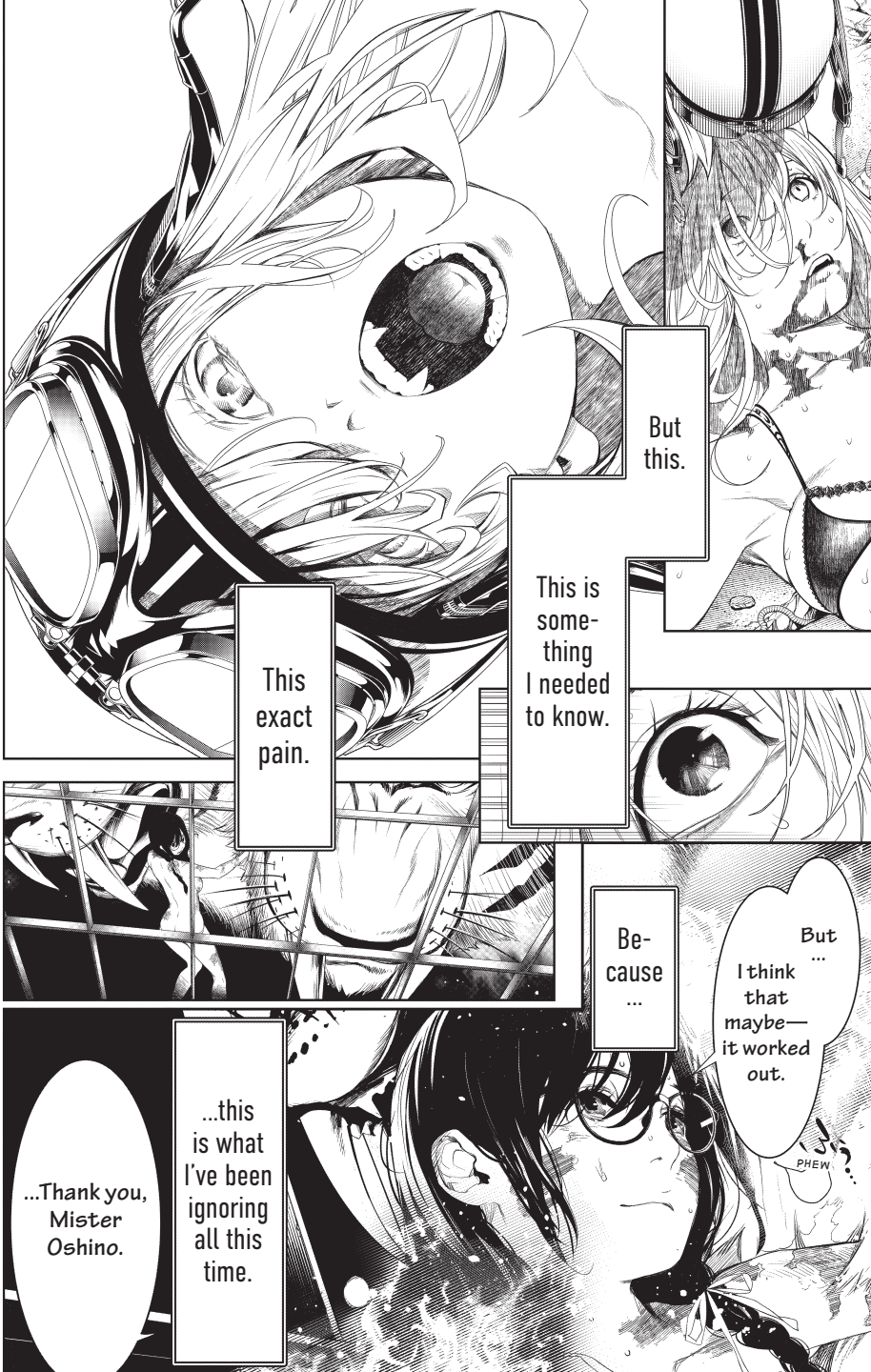
BWOOSH
SNATCH
BWING
HYA-AGH!
SNAP
SNAP
SNAP
TUG

There's just one problem about doing it *this way*—
your... or rather —
the cat's endur-ance. It won't be easy.
Even if she's sealed away, she's still the former king of ab-errations.
It's gonna be rough.
SPLAT
FWOOSH
BA-KRING

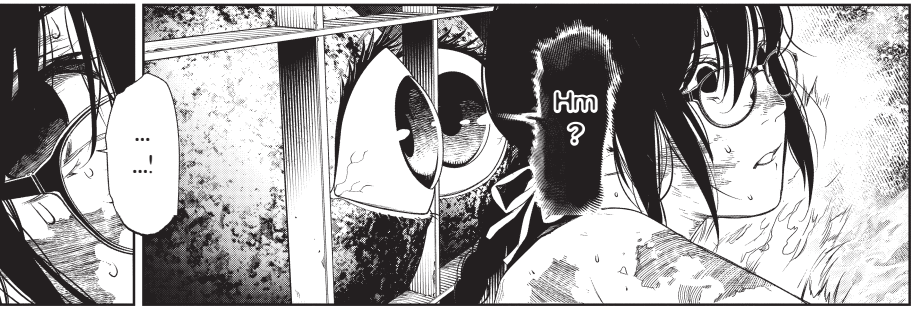
DUPLEX
KRAAASH
"If the cat's body reaches its limit, it'll be over for you.
If your mind isn't able to hold up—it'll also be over for you.
The tiger inside of you will likely pry those openings apart...
...and be released into the outside world."

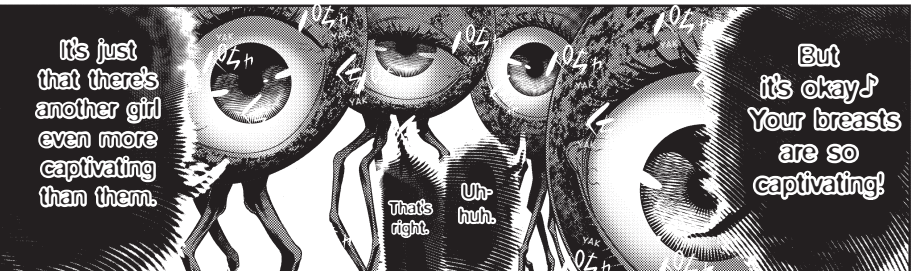
"Because people...
Glrrbg
Gah
Gaagh
...are *sensitive to pain.*"

はっはー
HA HAH!
In any case.
If you're somehow able to overcome that and get Shinobu to eat the tiger, our problem will be solved.
As long as you don't die, that is.
ズボッ
ZWOOMP
ビクッ
TWITCH
ビクッ
TWITCH
Eh
TWINGE
Eh
TWINGE
Um...
Mister Oshino?
This... isn't really a laughing matter...
Nngh!
...
...!
BLURGH

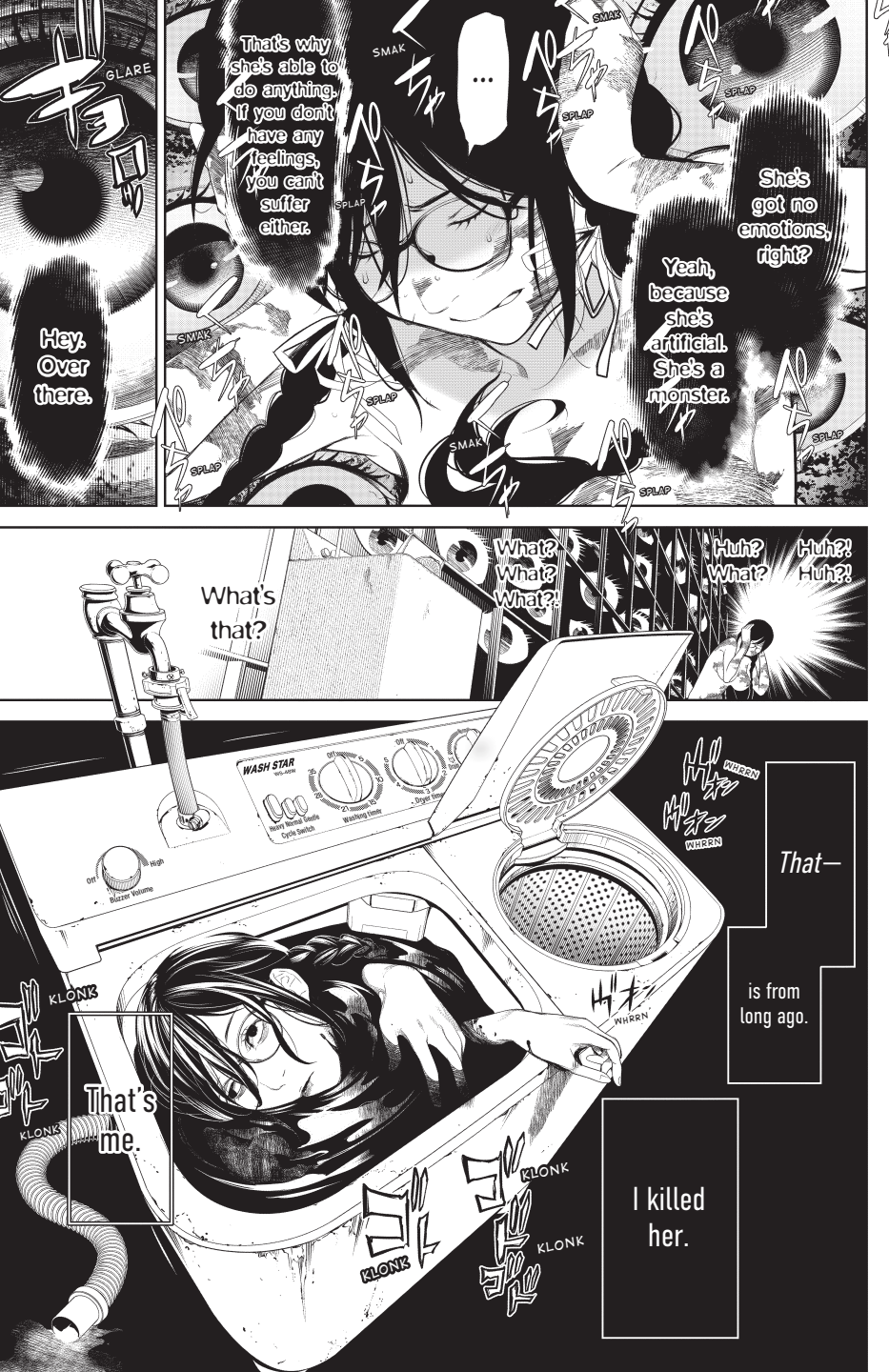

But this.
This is something I needed to know.
This exact pain.
Because...
But... I think that maybe—it worked out.
PHEW
...this is what I've been ignoring all this time.
...Thank you, Mister Oshino.

Despite exposing your breasts and bare ass to make a move on him.
Really?
It didn't work out at all.
You were shamefully rejected.


Hm?
...!


It's just that there's another girl even more captivating than them.
That's right.
Uh-huh.
But it's okay♪ Your breasts are so captivating!

Trying to use your body to somehow keep his attention when he already sees you as a total loser?
Damn, I wouldn't be able to keep going after that, lol.
Seems like his current girlfriend has an awful personality, but she still lost to her? How much of a loser can you be?
So she went easy on a nobody who showed up out of nowhere and got beat down because of it?
You're the one who's known him for longer, too.
No, she got rejected because she doesn't.
Oof! lol
C'mon, even she must have something to her aside from her breasts.
...and release the tiger.
He wants to stoke my jealousy ...
Don't listen to them.
...
After all this time— what the hell are you trying to act like a human for?


GLARE
Hey. Over there.
That's why she's able to do anything. If you don't have any feelings, you can't suffer either.
...
She's got no emotions, right?
Yeah, because she's artificial. She's a monster.
SMAK
SPLAP
What's that?
What? What? What?
Huh? What?
Huh?! Huh?!
WASH STAR
WHRRN
That—
is from long ago.
KLONK
That's me.
I killed her.

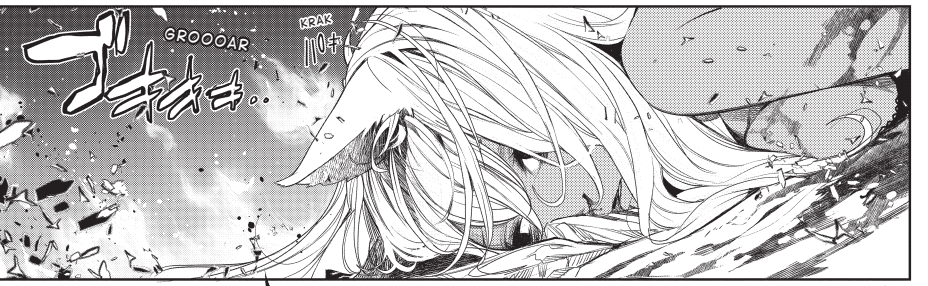
leave ...!
Don't —
!
But it was no good.
No matter how many times I killed my self.
No matter how much I suffered, no matter what awful thing happened to me.
I was always able to sever it with a smile— and yet.
No!
Don't ...
... go...!

...was the one thing I couldn't sever.
My love for you...
Araragi.
Haah!
Agh...
Haah...
What exactly is going on right now...?!
?!
Did the cat... already get eaten by Shinobu?
Please... Shinobu! Just don't devour Hanekawa, too...!

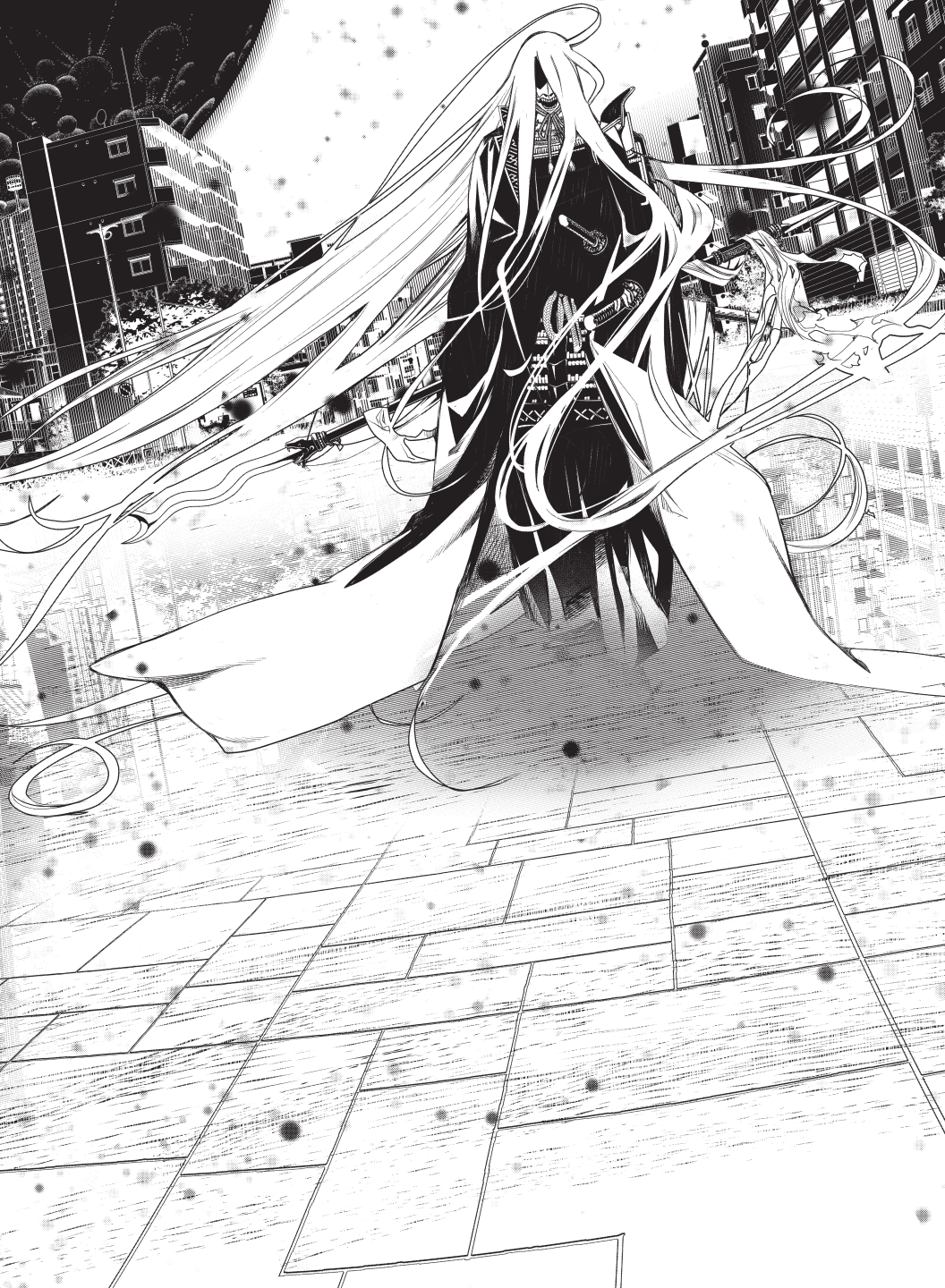
2X
POINTS
Tons
of
in-store
offers

FLAP
A-A three-headed...
...tiger ...? Giant ...?!
ZSSHH
I guess ...
...I really was at my limit.
I ran, and ran, and ran— but...
...I hadn't gotten away. I was just ignoring it.

TWITCH
FZZZZ
TWITCH


GROOOAR
KRAK

I guess... I couldn't become ...
someone like you... in... the end...
Araragi... I'm sorry.
I'm... so sorry.



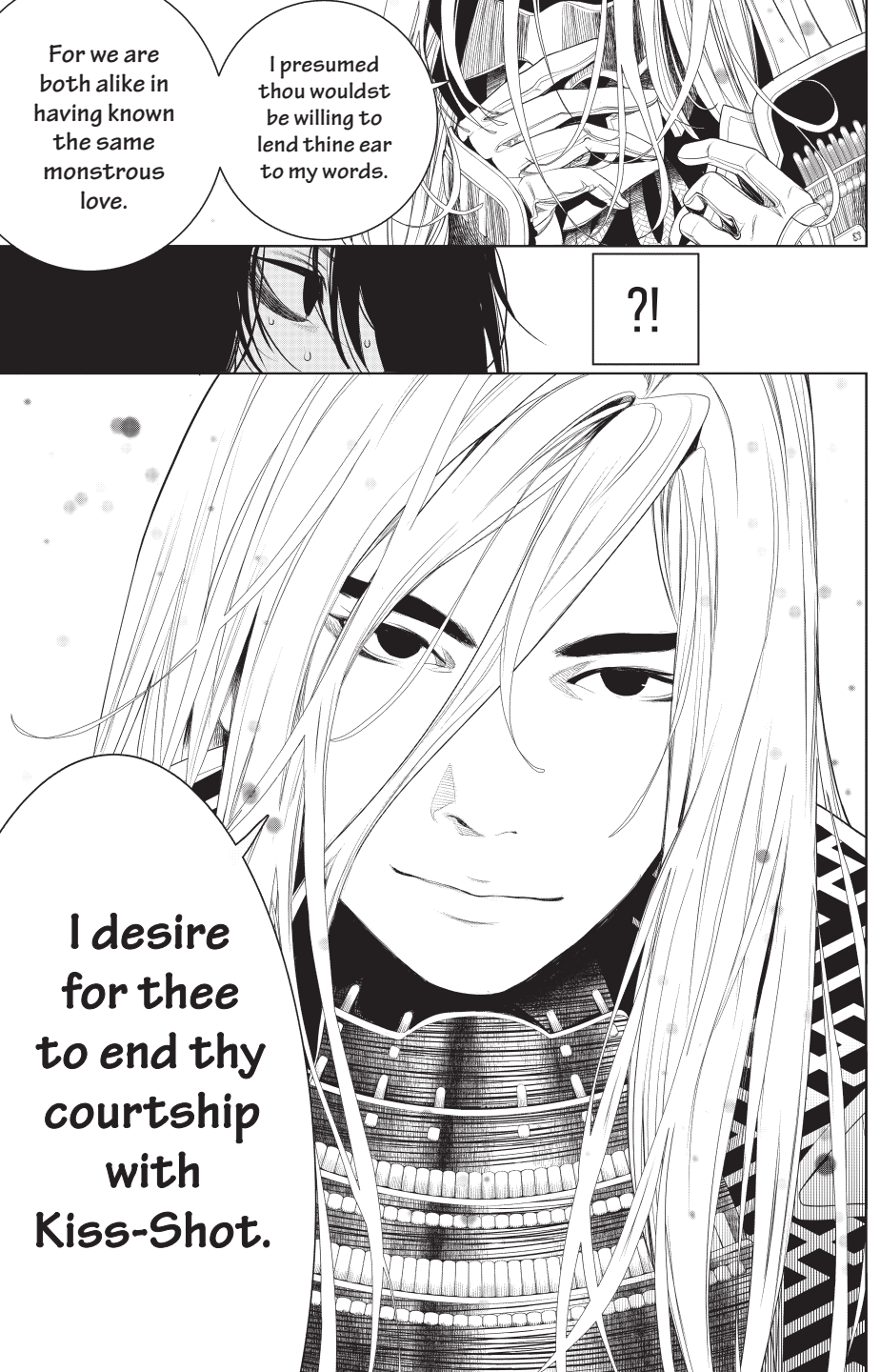
I suppose I should say—that I am glad to make thine acquaintance.
My successor.
...

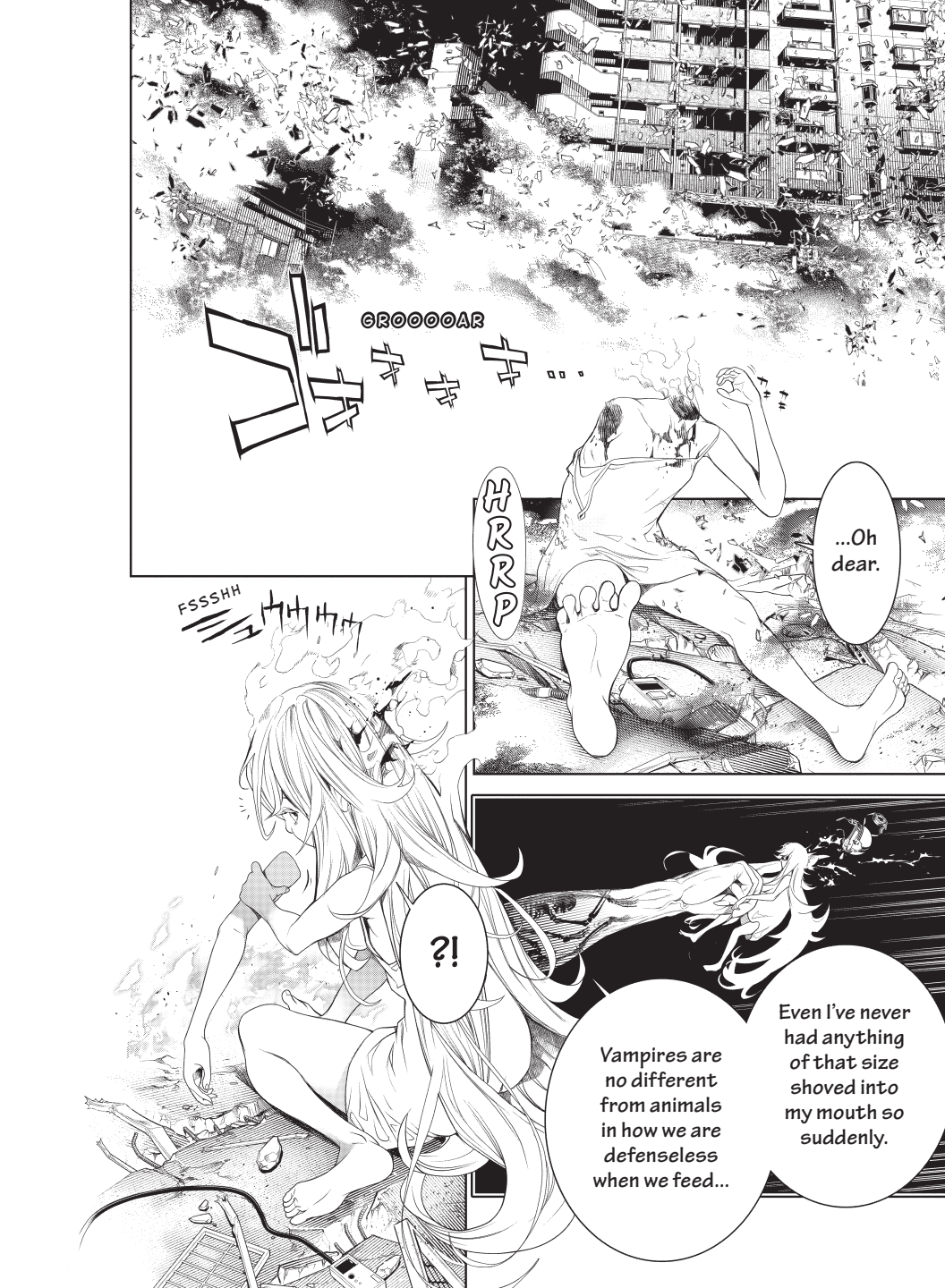
# BAKEMONOGATARI

...Yeah.
I guess this is technically our first time meeting...
It's not like...
...we've ever greeted each other before.

Even I was able to sense...
...his presence.
But—ever since my spring break from hell.
I...
You may find it hard to believe—but I saw a ghost!
Hachikuji told me about him, too...
Kiss-Shot's first thrall.
Seishiro Shishirui—am I correct?

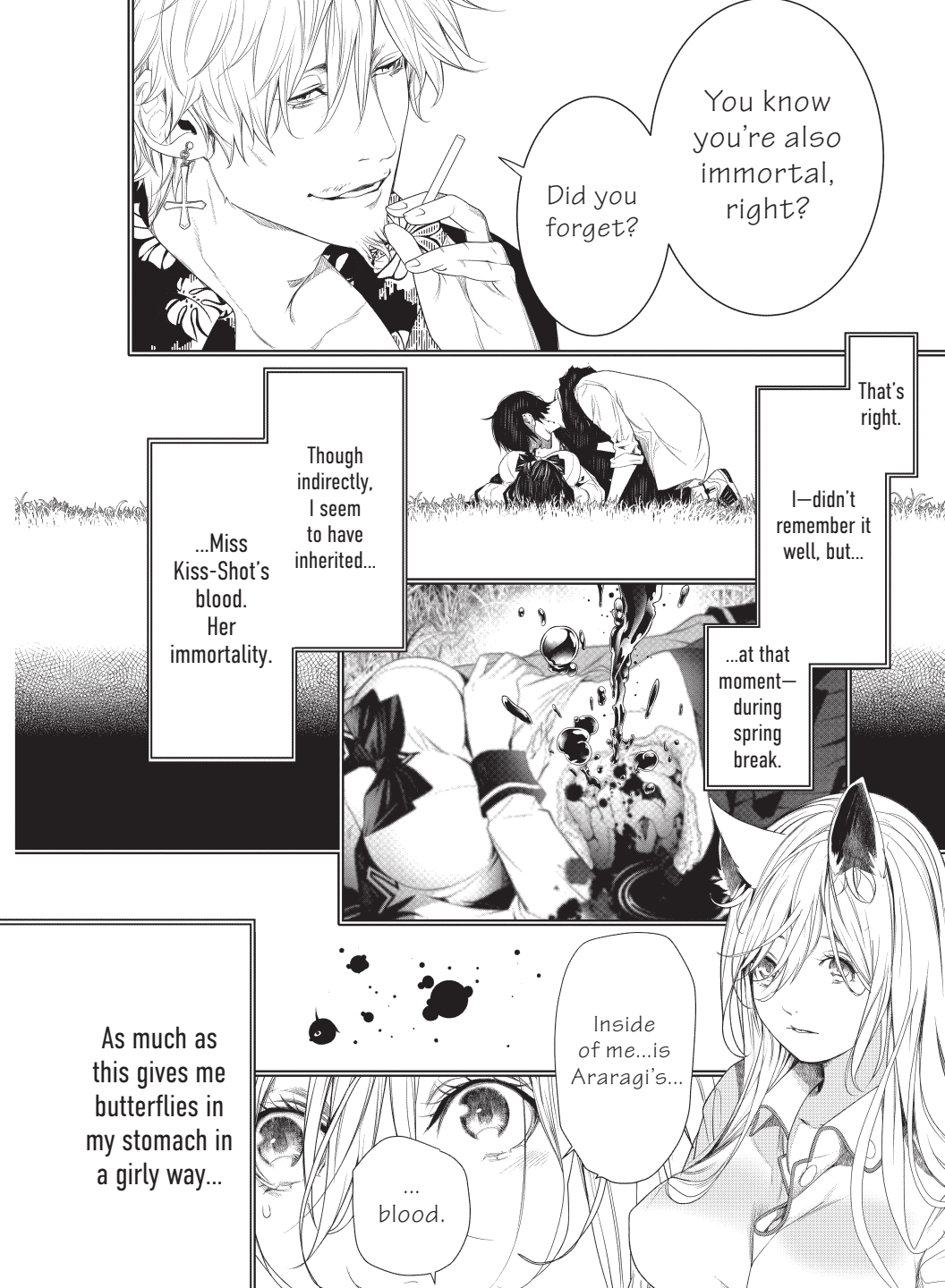
Indeed.
But there is no need for such a dire expression.
I shall not sink my teeth into your flesh.
Huh.
...
You're a vampire, too—right?
Not a very funny joke.
...What are you here for?
What's with today?
What exactly is going on here?!


I presumed thou wouldst be willing to lend thine ear to my words.
For we are both alike in having known the same monstrous love.
?!
I desire for thee to end thy courtship with Kiss-Shot.


GROOOOAR
ゴゴゴゴ...
HRRP
...Oh dear.
FSSSHH
シュゥゥゥゥ
?!
Vampires are no different from animals in how we are defenseless when we feed...
Even I've never had anything of that size shoved into my mouth so suddenly.

...I suppose it's to be expected. Thou didst birth that giant thing.
Emotions that are too powerful will bring ruin to even one's own flesh—if only thou hadst not so rashly resisted them...
SLITHER
THWAP!
TWITCH
ZLUUURP

...
...Hah. That damned boy.
TCH
Did he really teach her this?
Like I said earlier— exterminating this tiger isn't going to be simple, understand?
Well, you might just up and die the moment Shinobu wallops you.
But...
...fortunately— I guess I could say?
In this situation...

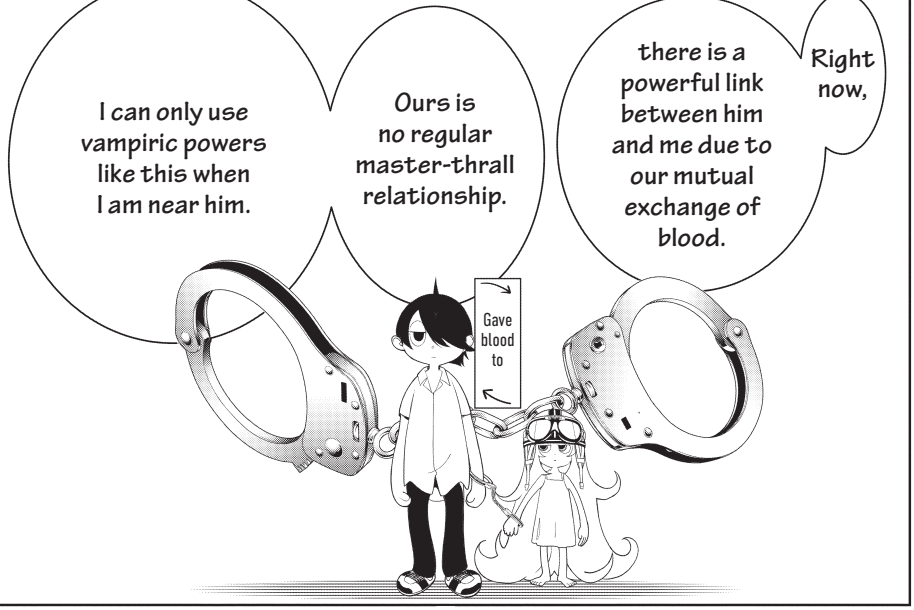

You know you're also immortal, right?
Did you forget?
That's right.
I—didn't remember it well, but...
...at that moment—during spring break.
Though indirectly, I seem to have inherited...
...Miss Kiss-Shot's blood. Her immortality.
Inside of me...is Araragi's...
...blood.
As much as this gives me butterflies in my stomach in a girly way...

SPLAP
SPLAP
SPLAP
...by ingesting Araragi's blood again.
...seems to be temporarily boosted...
...this immortality...
Y'know...
Personally,
I really wouldn't want to do this if your request were, "I want to wipe everything away and die."
I'm a balancer, after all.
Having you live a bit of a long life...
...is more convenient for me.

FWOOM

MY BREASTS ARE EVEN BIGGER THAN BEFORE!
MROOOW ?!
IT'S A BOOBY BOOST, MEOW!
BLUP
BLUP
BLUP
BLUP
BLUP
Oh! These wings move!
Purrty cute!
IPA FLAP
IPA FLAP
IPA FLAP
...
Haah...
Hrm... But I do hope these breasts go back to nyormal later. For my Myaster's sake, too!
TWITCH
It seems he's more interested in flat chests than big boobs...
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
HEY! EXPLAIN THY WORDS!
?!!
WHAT MROW?!
Boob discourse is bound to get people of all genders talking!

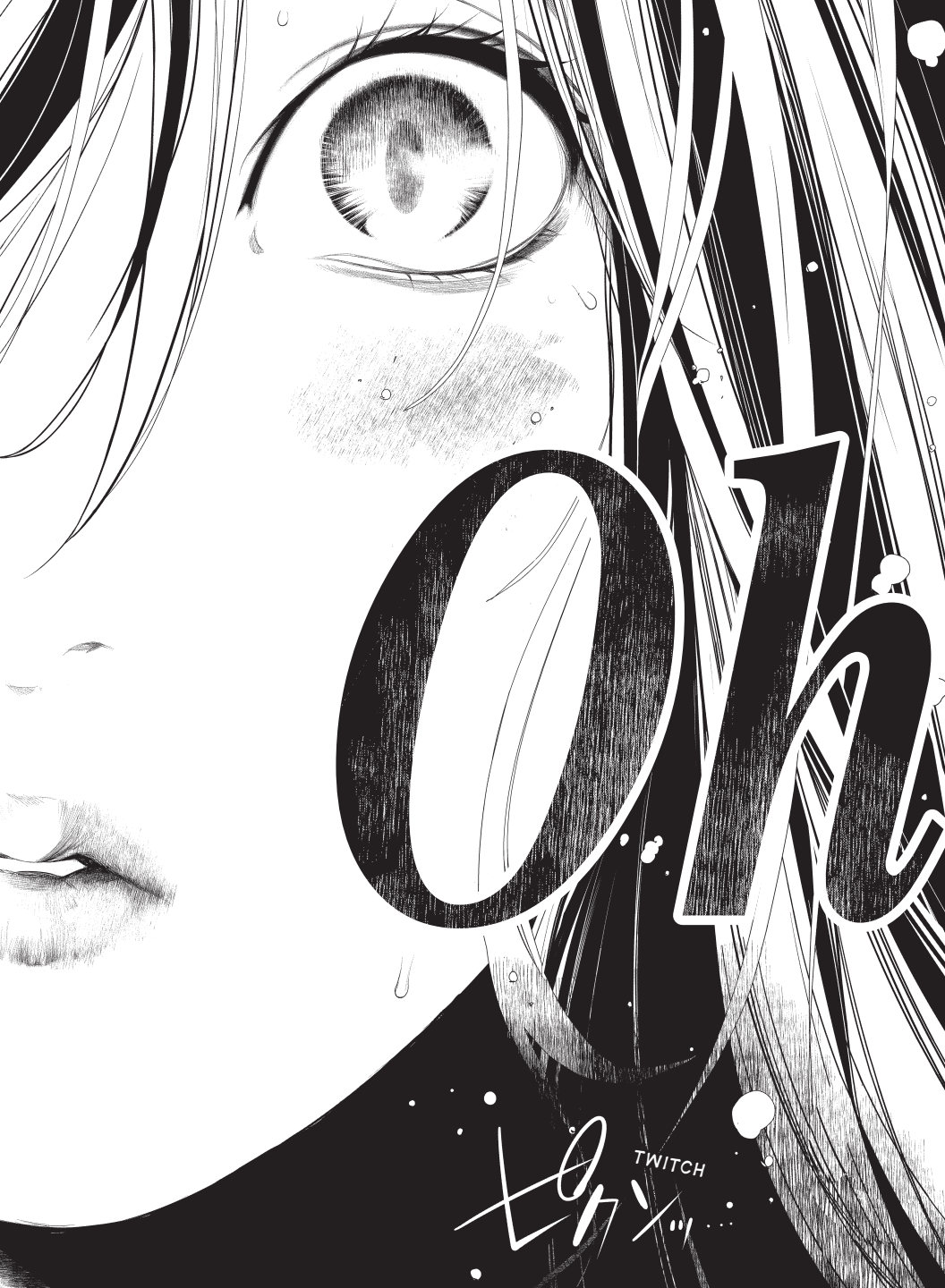
Tundra
The tiger's on its way to burn that tsundere alive!
—Wait! This is nyo time to be talking about something as fun and exciting as that!
Could you give me some help, vampi—
Hey, I haven't even asked yet!
I refuse.
Don't get the wrong idea.
Yes, most tiger aber-rations are.
That tiger's super-strong, you nyoh!
The situation's different nyow! Let's call a cease-fire!


Right now,
there is a powerful link between him and me due to our mutual exchange of blood.
Ours is no regular master-thrall relationship.
I can only use vampiric powers like this when I am near him.
Gave blood to

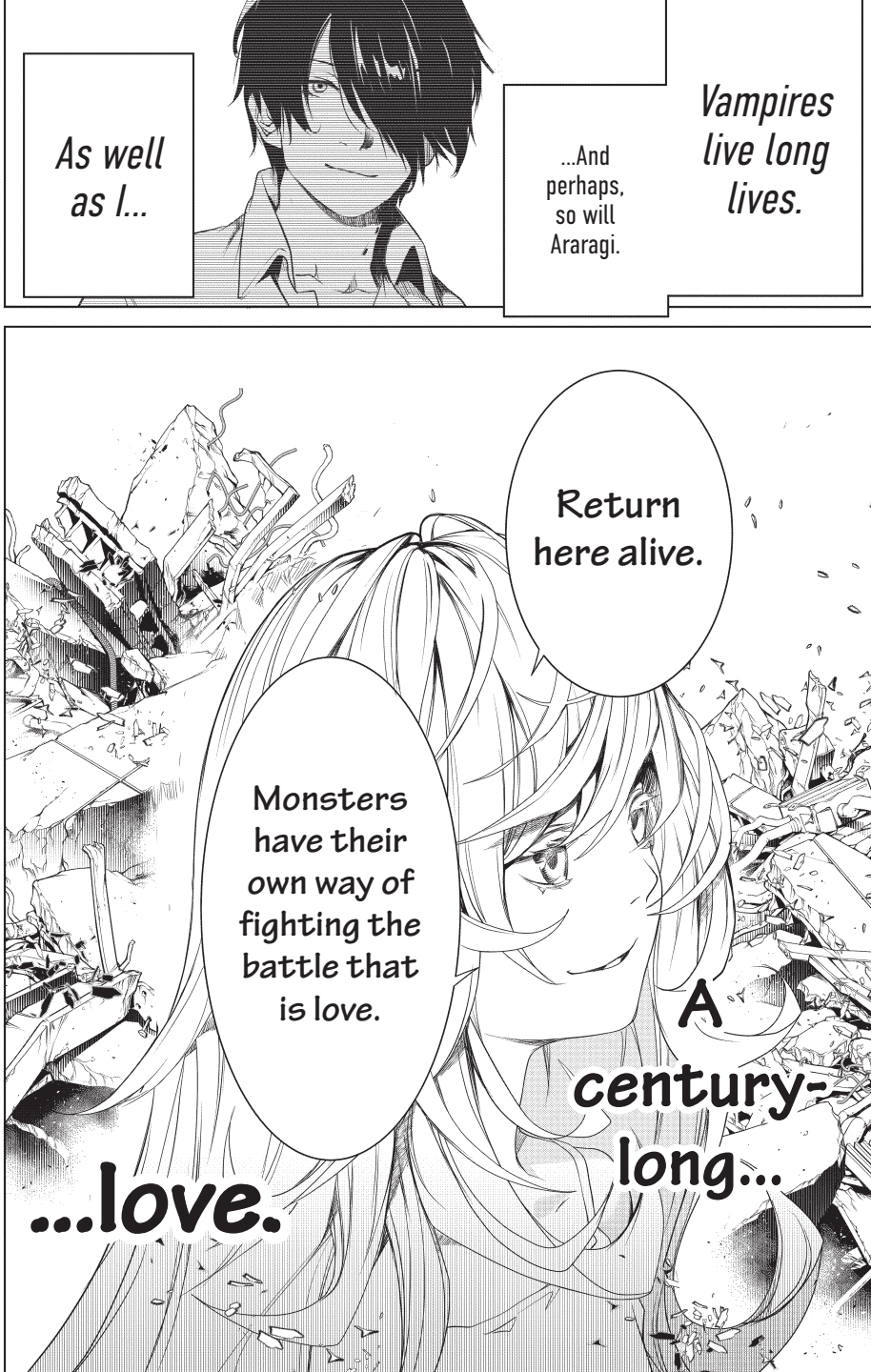
I know not where the tsundere's home is— but I would become nothing but a human child were I to go that far.
I would provide no help and merely be a burden.
Sorry.
...
Roger that.
...
Miss Basa.
?!
Basa ?

Perhaps thou mayest think that if it were to come down to it, thou and the tiger would finish off one another...
I speak of thee.
But the option of waiting is also available to thee.
...not say a thing to thee?
Did the boy...
...
?!

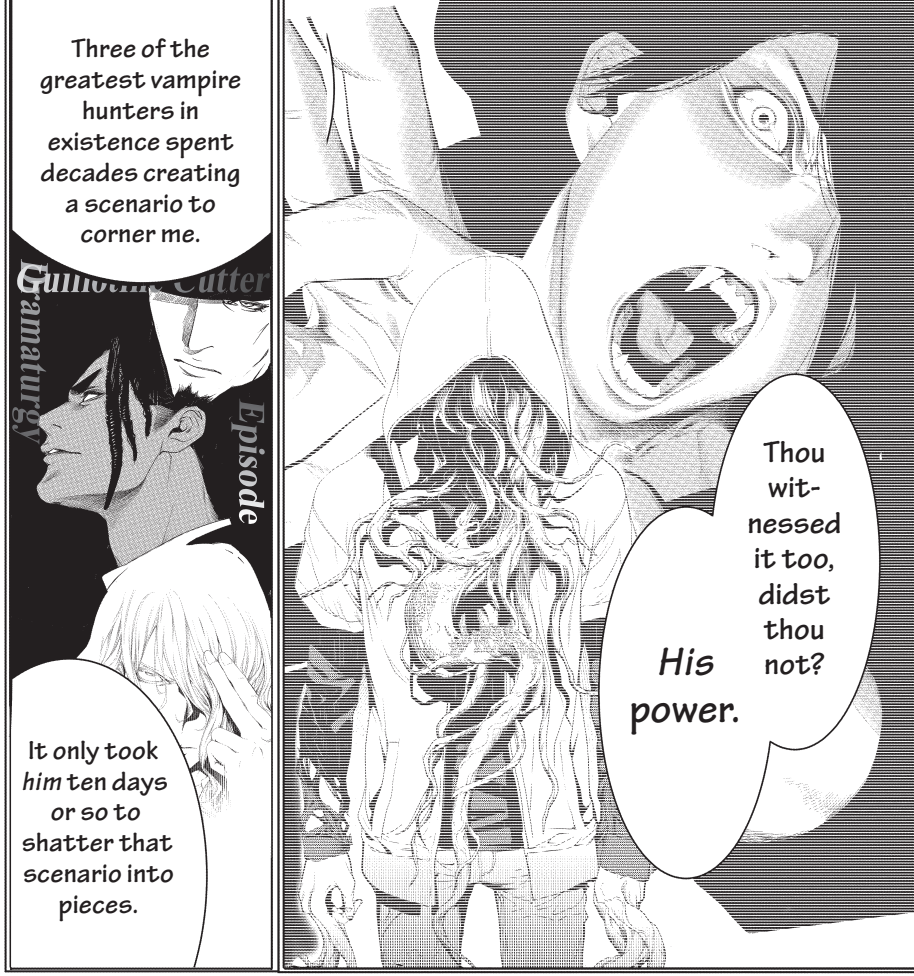
Even if the tsundere survives, it would be for a mere 70 or 80 more years, no?
This one month may even feel longer to thee.
But it is like the blink of an eye once over.
...felt the first century to be rather long.
...Yes, even I...

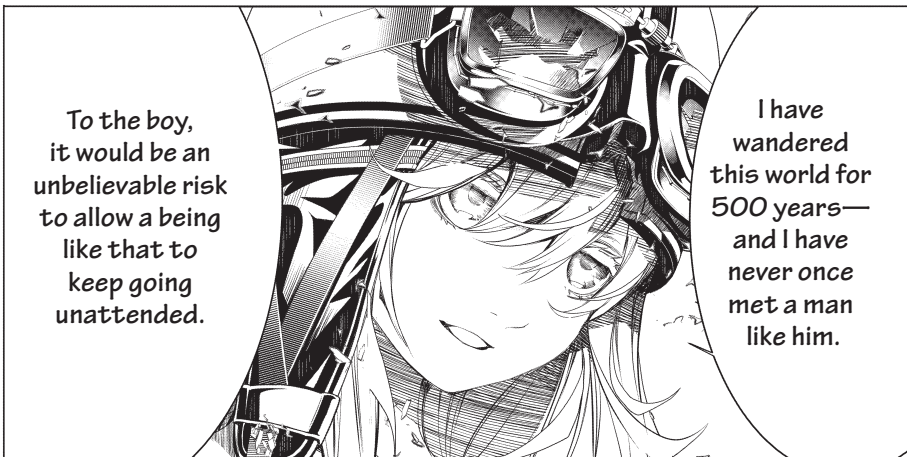

0.1°
TWITCH

Wait ?! Wait ...?!
Wai —
Having you live a bit of a long life is more convenient for me.
Wait.


Vampires live long lives.
...And perhaps, so will Araragi.
As well as I...
Return here alive.
Monsters have their own way of fighting the battle that is love.
A century-long...
...love.

I say this not for thy sake.
BAKEMONOGATARI
This is nothing more—than what the boy is likely to think.
As an expert on aberrations, he must plan ahead a hundred, even two hundred years.
Even after— his life or the tsundere's has run its course.


Three of the greatest vampire hunters in existence spent decades creating a scenario to corner me.
Guillotine Cutter
Gamaturgy
Episode
It only took him ten days or so to shatter that scenario into pieces.
Thou wit-nessed it too, didst thou not?
His power.


To the boy, it would be an unbelievable risk to allow a being like that to keep going unattended.
I have wandered this world for 500 years—and I have never once met a man like him.

And the same goes for thee— the exact same, at that.
So he wants for these two similar kings of aberrations ...
...to keep an eye on one another...
...and prevent the other from running amok— that is his plan.

And if Araragi— goes out of control?
He'll be killed.
No, it'd be fine if he just got killed.
The world— might end.
Ah ...!
You know ...
There was a time—when I thought the same thing.
Back then.
During ...
...that spring break.
Ahh ...!

*I'm going to make a world that Araragi can come home to.*

But just now...
...that turned into resolve.
One step at a time.
Steadily.
Just like I decided back then...in the P.E. shed.
I'll take this... slowly.
Hm...?

For the first time in my life...
...I have a reason to live.
Was this town...
...always so small?

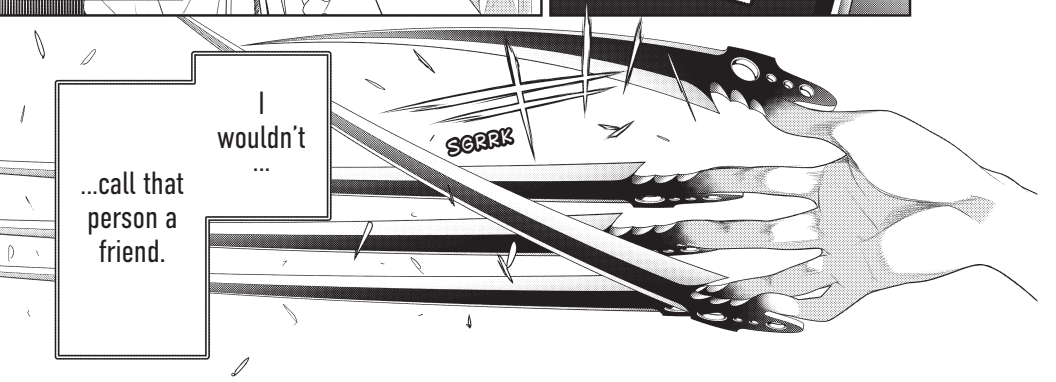
ZSSHH
Will we burn?
Aye.
We will.
Yes. We will.
Burn.

Burn that woman.
Burn this home.
Keyomi Asuragi
No answer

Bur
—
GWOOSH

SIGH
If I couldn't die for a friend,

Koyomi Araragi
080-XXX-XXXX
Contacts
Speaker
Mute
Keypad
No answer


I wouldn't ...
...call that person a friend.
SCRRK

But right now...
KLANG
GA-KRAK
...I can't die for Miss Senjo-gahara.

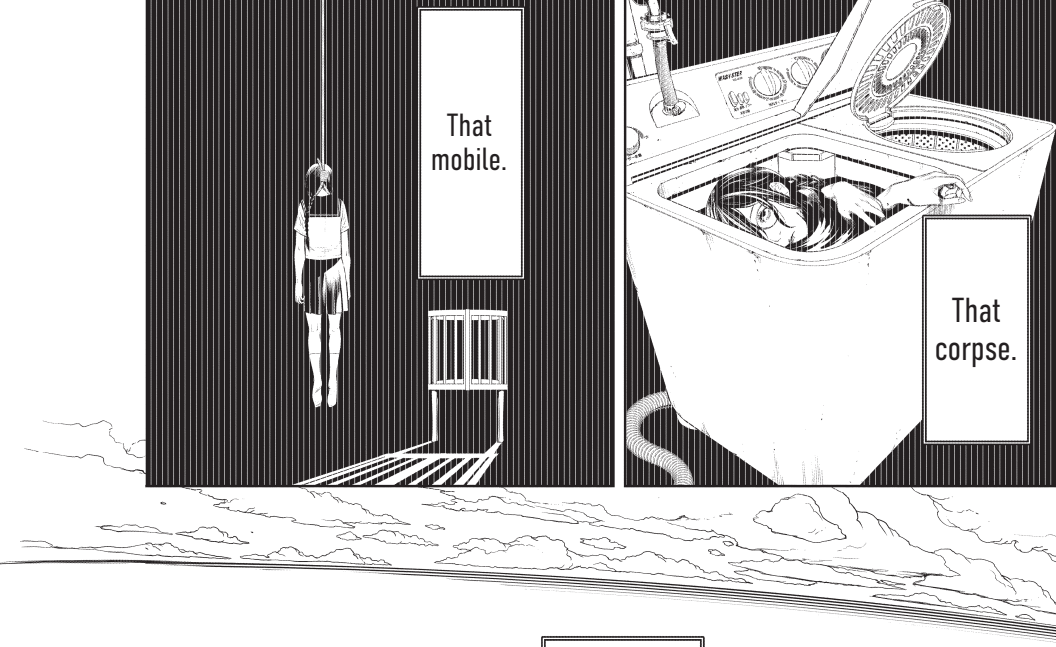
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
GRRT

SNAP
There's no way I could allow myself to die now.
I have to stay alive for the person I love.

BOOM
SPLAT
KRAK
POP
PUCK
GRAKK
SNAP
BARRGH
BA-KRAK
Why do you interfere.
This is what you wanted.
You.
It hurts.
It hurts.
—I'm scared.

I never knew—
that dying would make me feel this scared.
And...

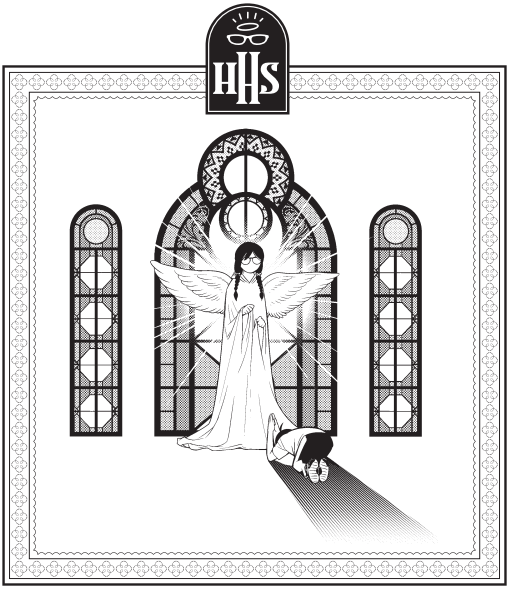
...that it would make me this happy.



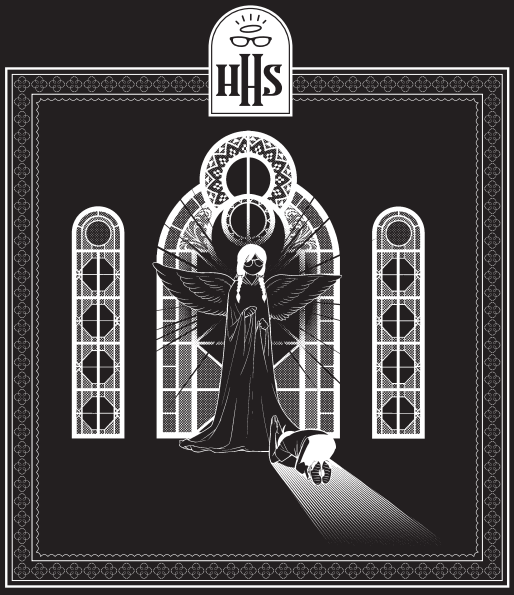

I can't see them now.

So it was this big...
There's no need—
to win.

But right nyow,
I don't intend on losing either!



# BAKEMONOGATARI XIX



BAKEMONOGATARI XIX

BRIDAL HOTEL
Hm.
Wait...
...for a hundred years,
eh.
I must say.
What a selfish act of kindness that was.
Meow ?

Vam-
pire.
Hypo-
theti-
cally—
if when
I was
draining his
energy...
Save
me.
Shi-
nobu.
...but
I don't
know why
her name
came out
of my
mouth.
...I
called
for
Shinobu
...
...he
didn't
call your
name—
what
were you
planning
on doing?
Heh.
...
I would ask
the same
question
of thee.
IRK

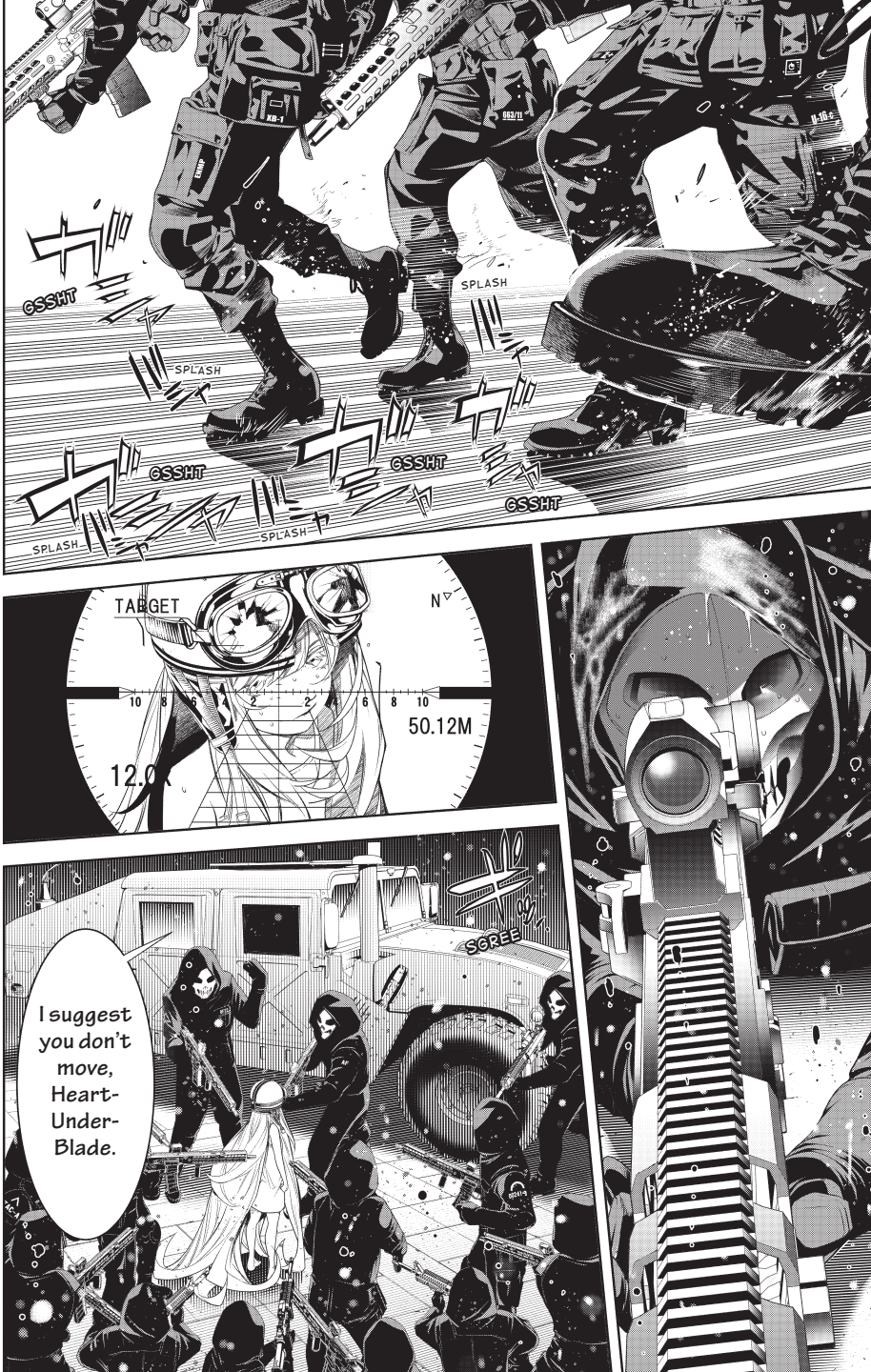
Hrmm... That's hard to say.
If that were to happen, all of ye— would be unable to continue on.
A few more seconds and he would have died.
The tiger and I are inside it, too.
And he risked his life to protect this body during spring break and Golden Week.
It's half been his since then, anyway.
So...
...I can't just destroy it on my own nyow.
I don't know what my myaster decided, but...
The one thing I can say...
...is that this body doesn't only belong to my myaster nyow.

That's right, meow!
But by it, thou only meanst to say that thou canst expire until he first taketh grip of thy prized breasts, no?
Thou mayest say that.
...It seems that we...
...are what might be called two of a kind.
OUR TASTE IN MEN, TOO.
LET'S YOU AND I FIGHT A CENTURY FROM NYOW!
THANKS A BUNCH— FOR GIVING ME THIS CHANCE!

Don't get carried away.

Mc 342

CHKK
BF-03


SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH
TARGET
N
50.12M
SCREE
I suggest you don't move, Heart-Under-Blade.

...I did not expect that thou would still be traipsing around this nation.
Thou hast been waiting for the opportunity when I stepped outside the barrier the boy created, I see.
Those are silver bullets.
They'll do a lot more to you than open up a hole or two.
Heh.
NAOETSU AUTO RACING
You know that waiting is something our kind does best.

Thou also, my successor.
I bid thee to wait 400 years under the blazing sun— and then thou shalt also understand.

I wish to apologize to Kiss-Shot.

That beauty —
she was as a goddess. The days I spent defending her back ...
...and fighting aberrations with her have remained ever fixed in my memory.
Aberration: The Hundred Spotted Eyes

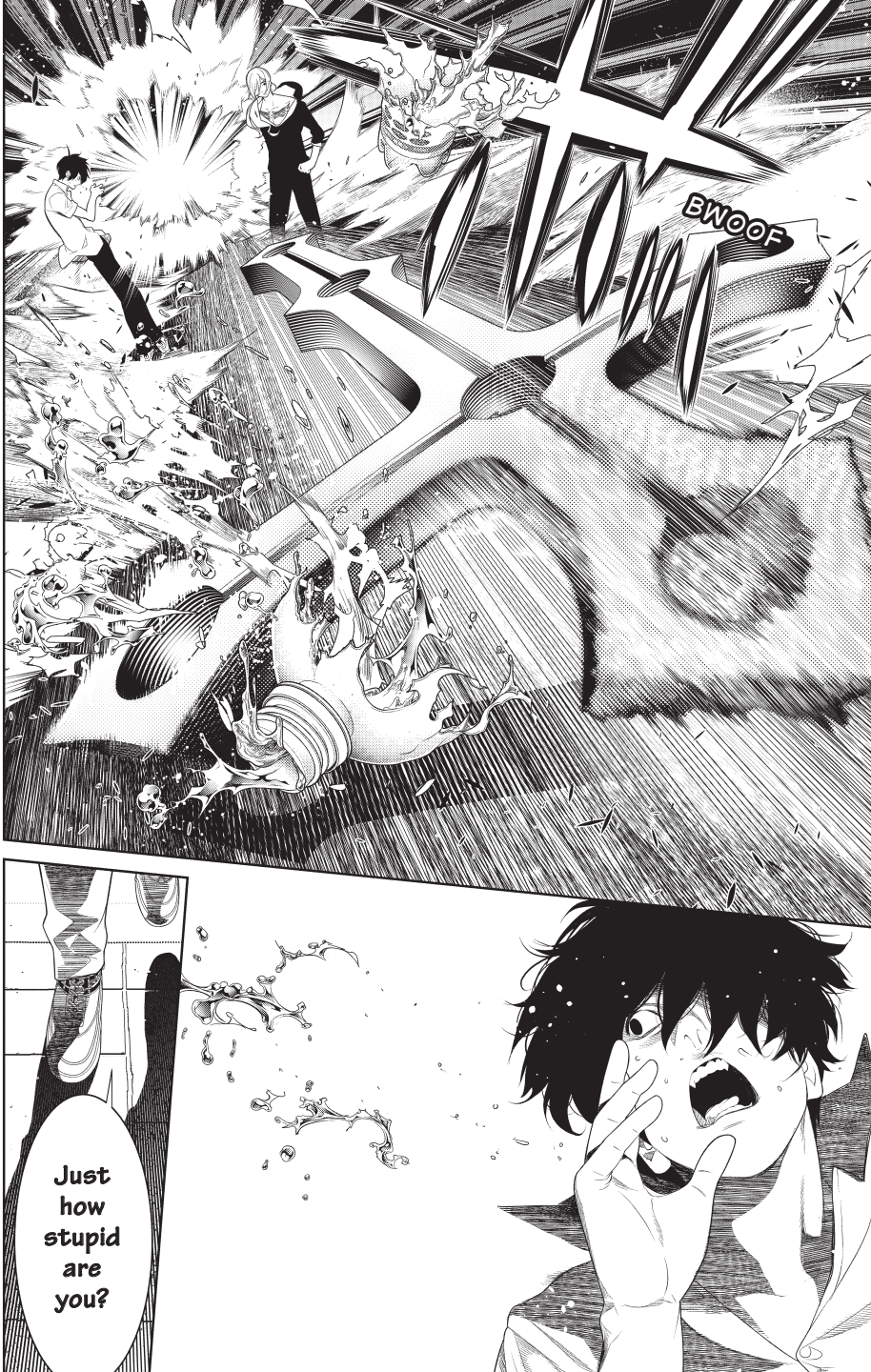
Mon-
ster
!!!
How
darest
thou
deceive
us!!!
I wish to be forgiven for that—for us to mend our broken bond.
My misunderstandings and briefly misguided passions—led me to utter such heartless words unto Kiss-Shot.
...
But of course...
Ahh.
...it would only be reasonable for thee to doubt me with your every fiber, my successor—given this fearsome appearance.
Hmm. Prithee, wait but a moment.
SKREEE

What say you now?
FSSHH
MYRMECODIA TUBEROSA
HAHA. HAHA-HA.
"MY SUCCESSOR" IS SUCH A FORMAL TITLE AS WELL. MAY I CALL YOU "SIR KOYOMI"?
Er...
Uh...
Even Senjo-gahara calls me Araragi.
Sure ...
Then, I pray thee, call me "Seishiro" in return.
Ah yes, that doth remind me.
I have a gift for thee, Koyomi.
He already got rid of the "Sir" part!

...
An energy drink?
HUH?
OH!
TAKE THIS!
HUP!
'Tis impressive.
Thou hast the makings of an expert on aberrations.
Thou hast been hard at work this night, Koyomi.
Thou art wearied, art thou not?
I believe I understand thy situation here.
PAI-KRAK

Uh... No, that was mostly Oshino...
Forgive my impropriety, Koyomi.
Oh dear! What manner of poor behavior is this, partaking of a beverage ere recommending it.
What...? It's fine...
thou hast dealt with aberrations in a most admirable fashion, Koyomi.
Be it the matter of Kiss-Shot or otherwise —
As one who doth possess expertise, I can attest to this truth...
THOK
PA-KRAK
110キョッ
Thou art a kind man, Koyomi.
MYRMECODIA TUBEROSA

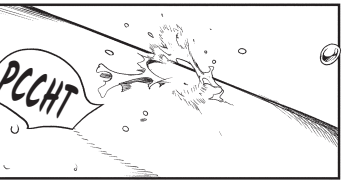
Huh... Now that I'm talking to him, I guess he's not that bad of a guy after all...
I'm super-parched after that cat sucked away all my energy.
Than...
...ks ...
ARGININE

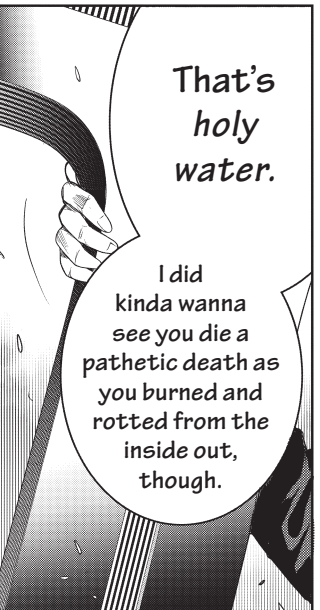

BWOOF
Just how stupid are you?

WHA...?!
...
...

Why—

Did you...


PCCHT

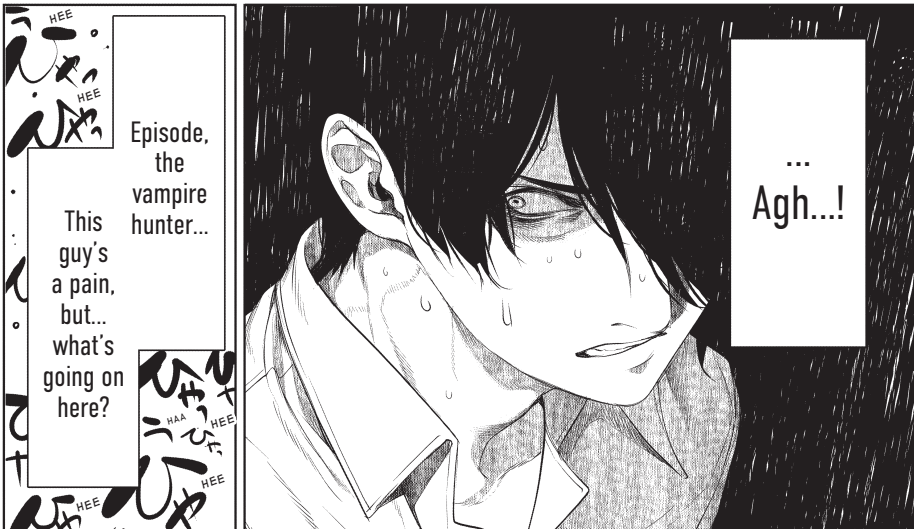

That's *holy water.*
I did kinda wanna see you die a pathetic death as you burned and rotted from the inside out, though.

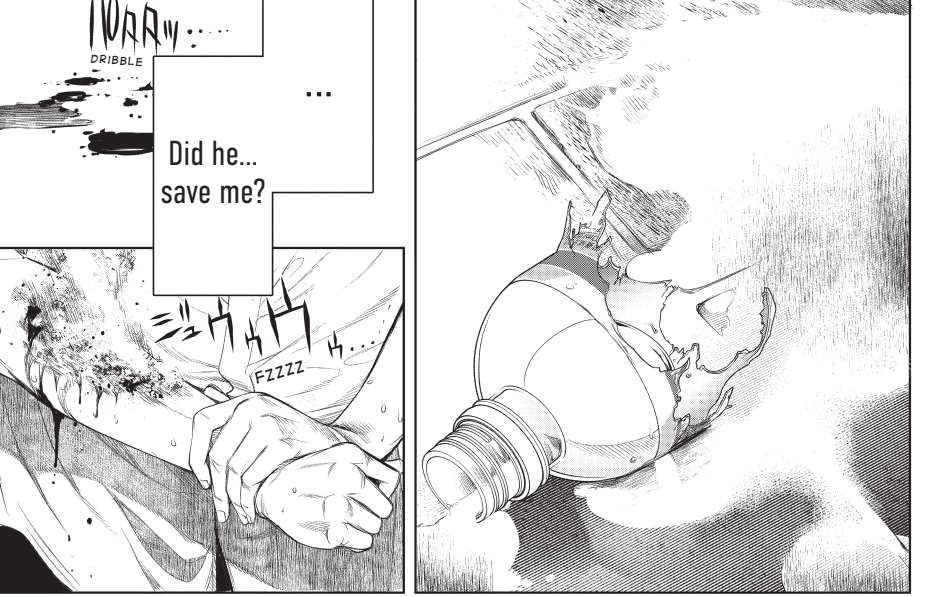
HUAAGH?!
FZZZ

Episode, the vampire hunter.
Wh...
Why are... you here...?
Gotta love it.
THWAM

Why did I, a first-rate vampire hunter...
...appear now, at this exact moment?
BAKEMONOGATARI
Kahah.
Bet you're dyin' to know why, thrall of Heart-Under-Blade.

DUMB-
ASS!
WELL,
IIIIIII'M
NOT
GONNA
TELL
YOU.


HEE
HEE
Episode, the vampire hunter...
This guy's a pain, but... what's going on here?
HAA
HEE
HEE
HEE
...
Agh...!


DRIBBLE
...
Did he... save me?
FZZZZ

Koyomi.
I believe thou shalt understand.
SUIT
AOKI
MYRMECODIA TUBEROSA

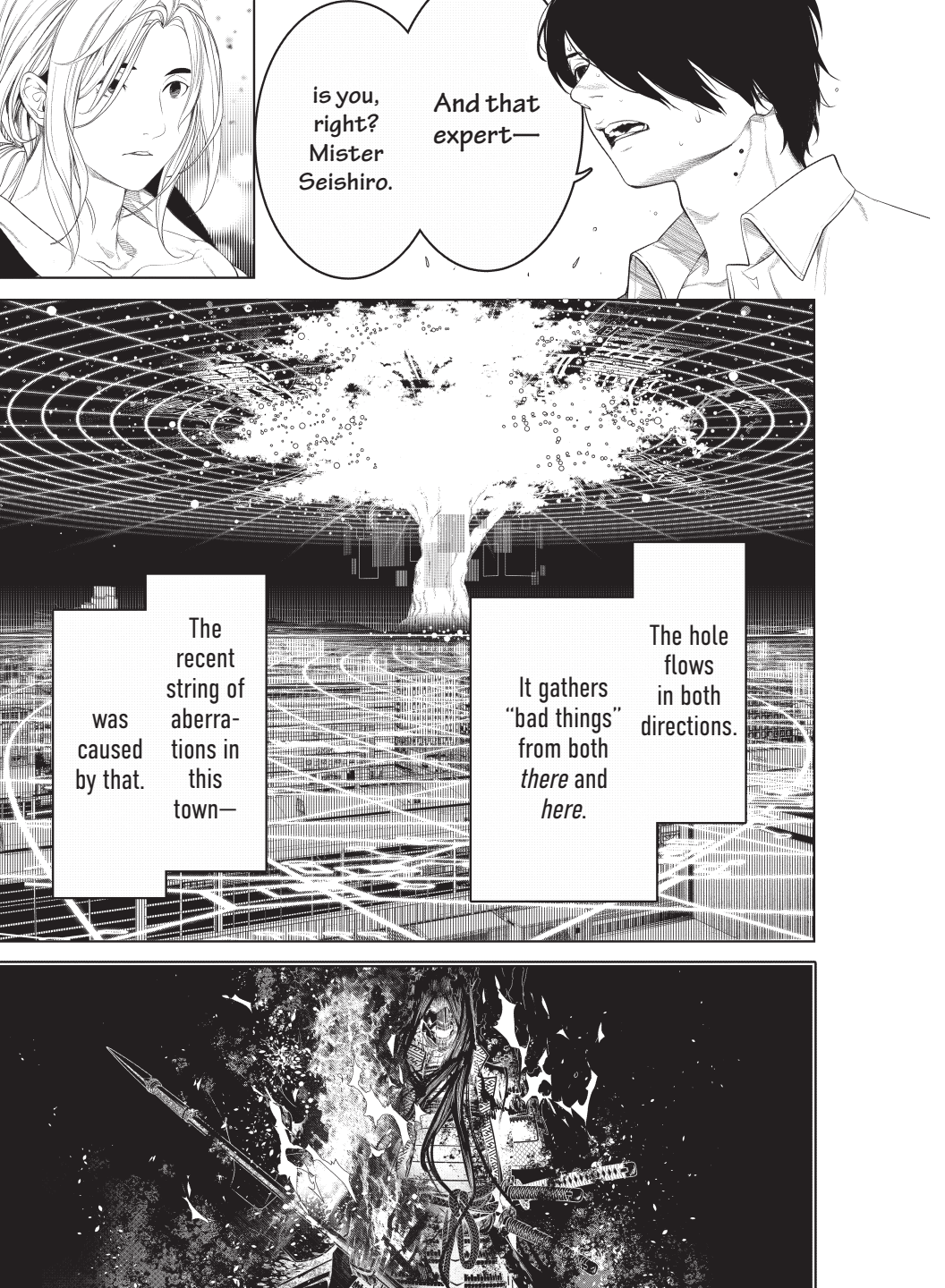
Kiss-Shot doth not require two thralls.

Betrayal?
No.
So from the start...
...you planned on killing me...
I don't see it that way.
It does make me wonder, though.
Did he really *need to trick me into drinking holy water*?
I mean—*did he have to do something like that to kill me as I am now*?

This world is improved if not even a single demon remains in it.
As I believe Kiss-Shot hath informed thee... I am an expert in the slaying of aberrations and do hold the moniker of "Aberration Slayer."
...
...No, but...in that case—it only makes me wonder more...
The first Aber-ration Slayer.
Hey.
Isn't that enough, thrall of Heart-Under-Blade?

Hurry up and let me slaughter that ashy bastard, punk.
I said, move.
You're in my way.
You aren't our target this time around.
You probably don't know, but he's—
THE CENTER OF ALL THE ABER-RATIONS IN THIS TOWN— RIGHT?

That crow-like man.
Deishu Kaiki—
He told me.
That mountain.
Kita-Shirahebi Shrine.
An expert opened a kind of hole there.
A "hole" connecting that world and this one.
*A passage for aberrations.*


is you, right? Mister Seishiro.
And that expert—
was caused by that.
The recent string of aberrations in this town—
It gathers "bad things" from both *there* and *here*.
The hole flows in both directions.

You could not eat humans.

So you resurrected your body, burned to ash,
by eating the aberrations gathered there.

Maybe you still hadn't gathered enough physical power to hammer in that nail.

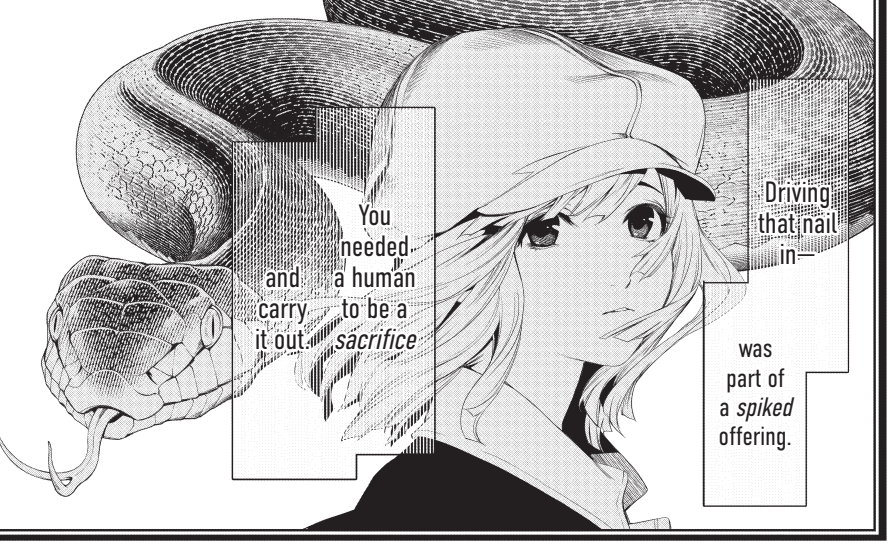
Or maybe you're unable to wield that spell as a vampire—but whatever the case, you couldn't directly touch it yourself.

And you got them to open a hole with a nail through the holy tree at Kita-Shirahebi Shrine.

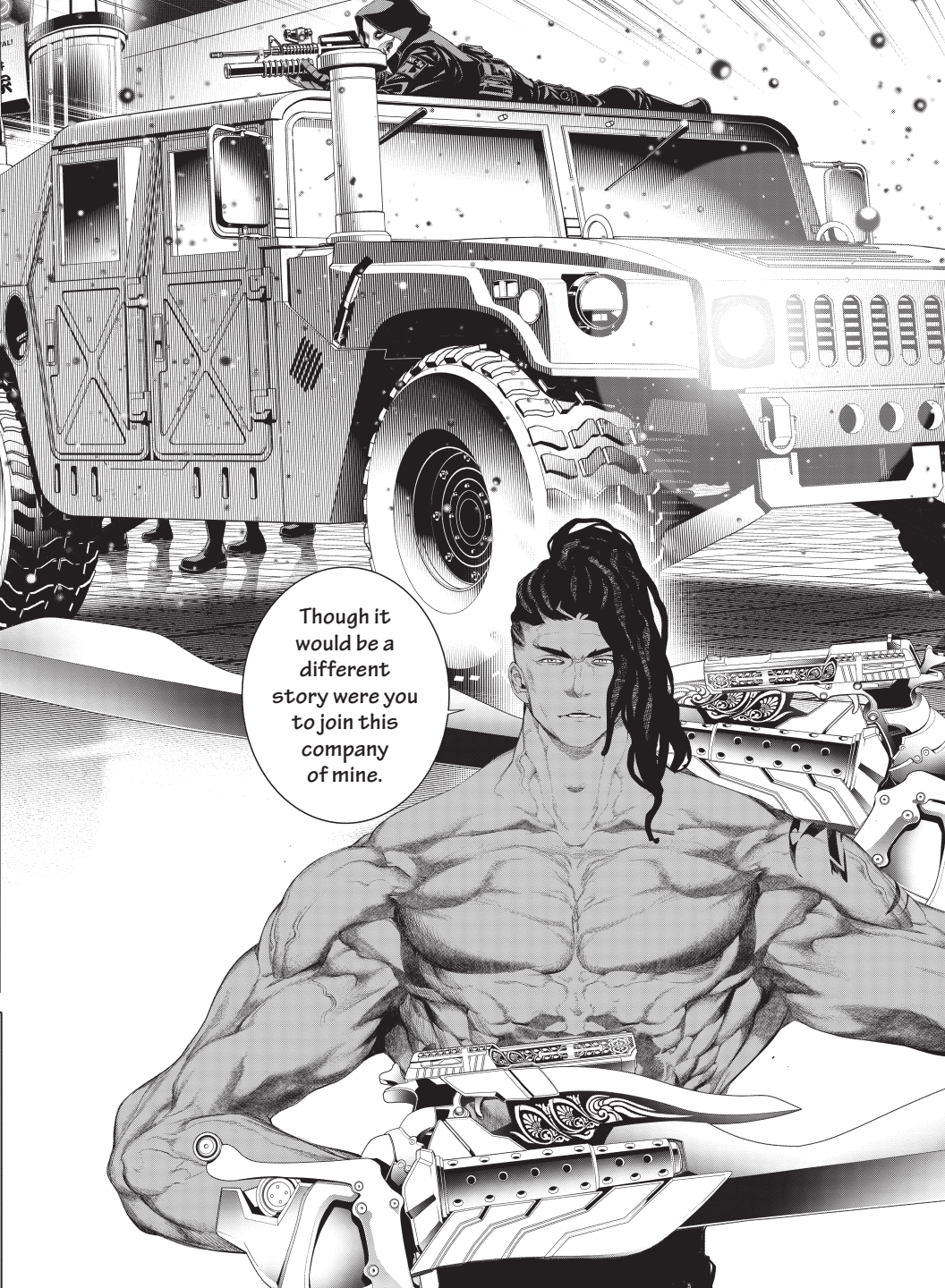
You spread a rumor to teach them a powerful spell.

And to do that—

you got middle schoolers around here involved in all of this and used them.


You needed a human to be a *sacrifice* and carry it out.
Driving that nail in—
was part of a *spiked* offering.

If you already knew all that, then...
...Thrall of Heart-Under-Blade.
This is beyond something you can handle on your own, young man.
Hmm... This guy...
...
SGRRK


Though it would be a different story were you to join this company of mine.

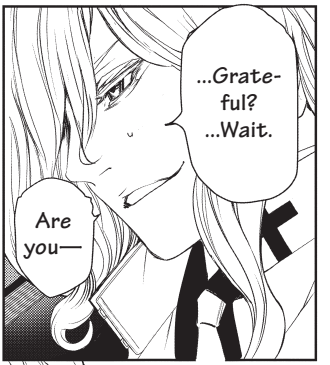
FWOOSH
We've spent years...no, centuries, chasing after that man.
Three months ago—when you fought with us—and we negotiated with that dubious fellow,
our terms included what would happen now, at this moment.
HEY! DON'T TELL HIM!
...
Instead of chasing around a fresh novice of a thrall—
isn't there some string-puller behind it all for you to get? Isn't that who you should really be after?

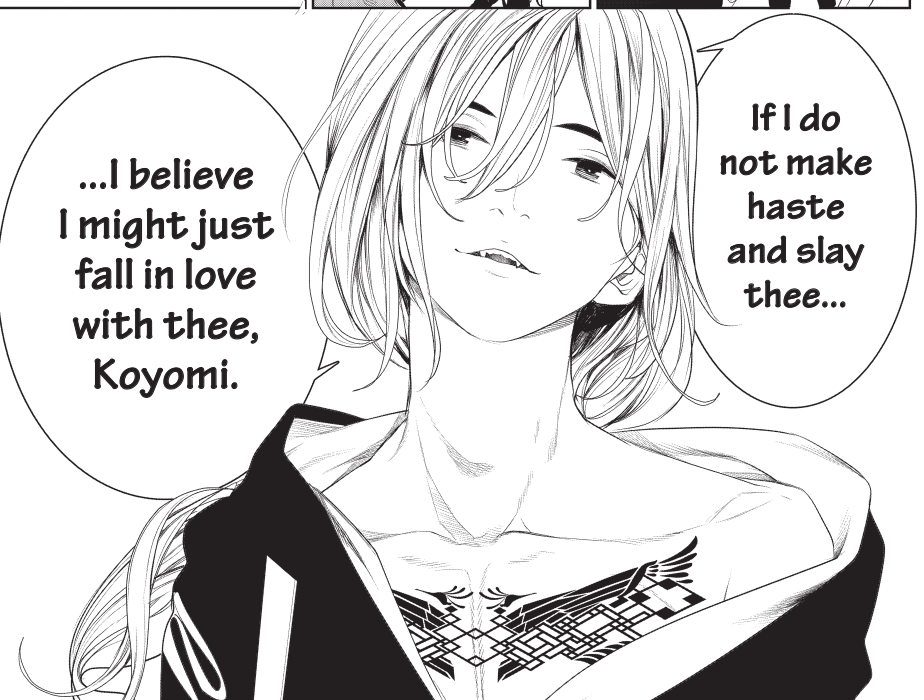
But I chose ...
...a path I don't normally take. One that had no signs of people around.
THNK
You brought me to Kiss-Shot when she was on the verge of death— didn't you?
Mister Seishiro... what happened— that day.
I'm...
...super grateful for what you did.
Thanks.

There's been a lot of annoying stuff that's happened since then—but I'm grateful to you for that one thing.
You got what you wanted—Kiss-Shot was saved... And it's what I wanted, too.

Oh heavens above.

You haven't changed...
...


...Grateful? ...Wait.
Are you—


If I do not make haste and slay thee...
...I believe I might just fall in love with thee, Koyomi.

Ah.
Finally.
Now I'll finally be able to repay my senior Araragi for one of the things he's done for me.
SHHK
SHHK
SHHK

I'm Suruga Kanbaru.
I gotta say... what a commotion.
Even I had trouble making it all the way here, you know.
はのね FLAP
はのね FLAP
はのね FLAP

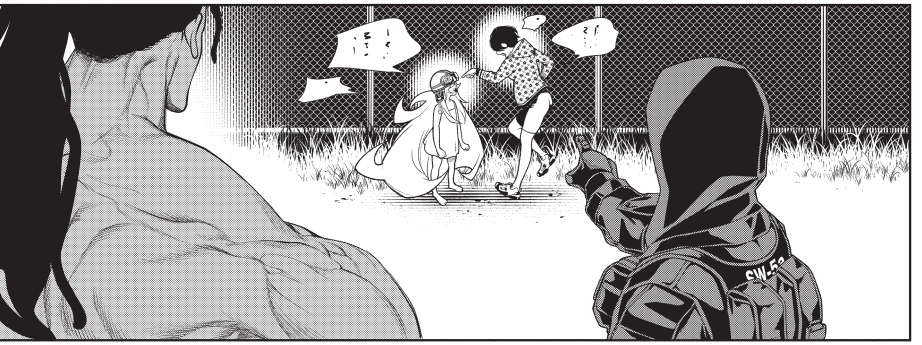
I don't know the situation, but... uh, that beautiful young man in the black hoodie...
Out of curiosity, what're you doing in a place like this?
...I bet you snuck out of the cram school to meet him, didn't you?

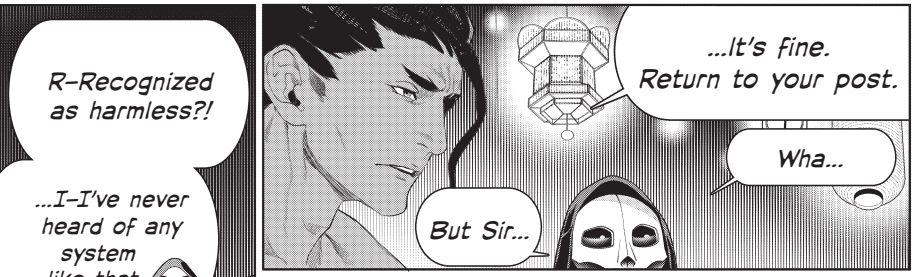
BAKEMONOGATARI

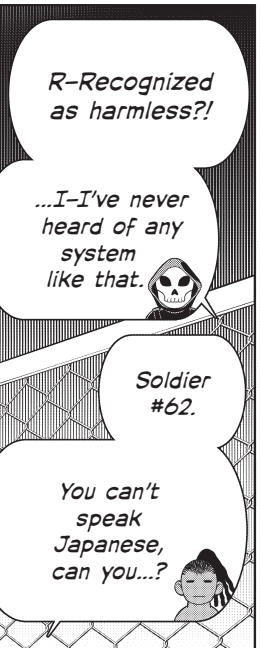
ガシャ
GSSHT
ガシャ
GSSHT
ガシャ
GSSHT
V-SS
BF44
oqiymm gjrwhjra kmtxpm
irabca wxqrdgh.
xvxqjjkqh xvvx
!¿


ねぇ
ねぇ
ねぇ

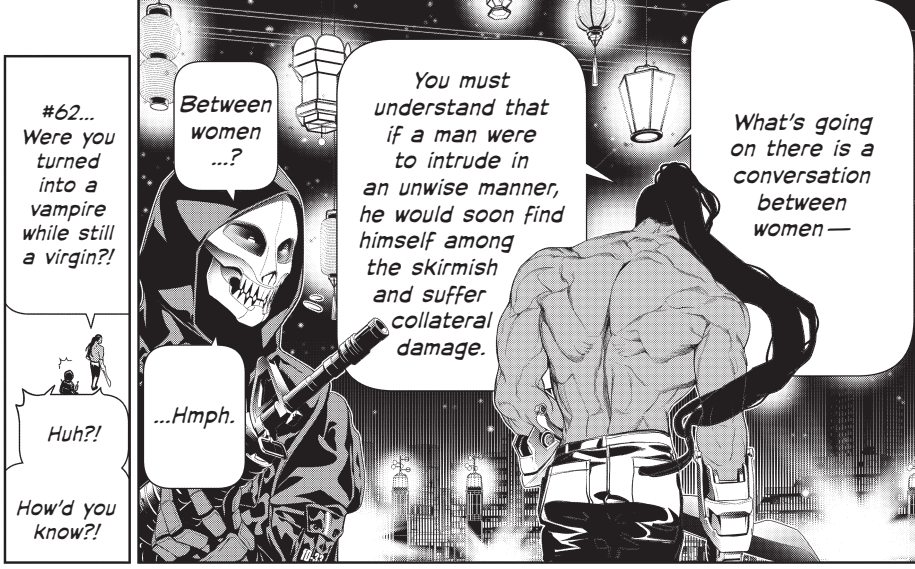
I swear
know!
as ever
Thou




...It's fine. Return to your post.
Wha...
But Sir...

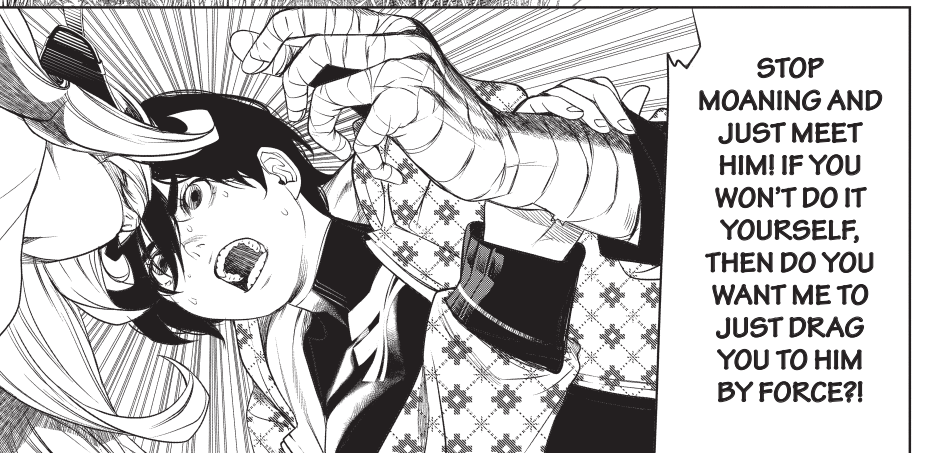

R-Recognized as harmless?!
...I-I've never heard of any system like that.
Soldier #62.
You can't speak Japanese, can you...?

That's in the past now... She's been "recognized as harmless" in her current state.
WANTED
destruction
KISSSHOT ACEROLAORION HEARTUNDERBLADE
★ REWARD ★
₰ 3,000,000,000-
That woman is the iron-blooded, hot-blooded, yet cold-blooded— most wicked of vampires.


#62... Were you turned into a vampire while still a virgin?!
Huh?!
How'd you know?!
Between women ...?
...Hmph.
You must understand that if a man were to intrude in an unwise manner, he would soon find himself among the skirmish and suffer collateral damage.
What's going on there is a conversation between women—

NO!
Again! I will not meet him! If I say I will not, I will not! I will not meet him!
How many times must I tell thou and thy love-addled brain this?!
YOU'RE WRONG! YOU NEED TO MEET HIM! YOU'RE WRONG! YOU NEED TO MEET HIM!
YOU ABSOLUTELY NEED TO MEET HIM! I'M GOING TO KEEP ON SAYING THIS!

I've always thought thou to have a defective mind, but this is beyond the pale!
LISTEN, I KNOW BETTER THAN ANYONE THAT I'VE GOT A MESSED-UP HEAD!
GRIND
GRIND
GRIND
I did not leave the cram school to meet Seishiro, nor do I have any desire to meet him!
MEET HIM AND APOLO-GIZE!
Apolo-gize?! Me?!

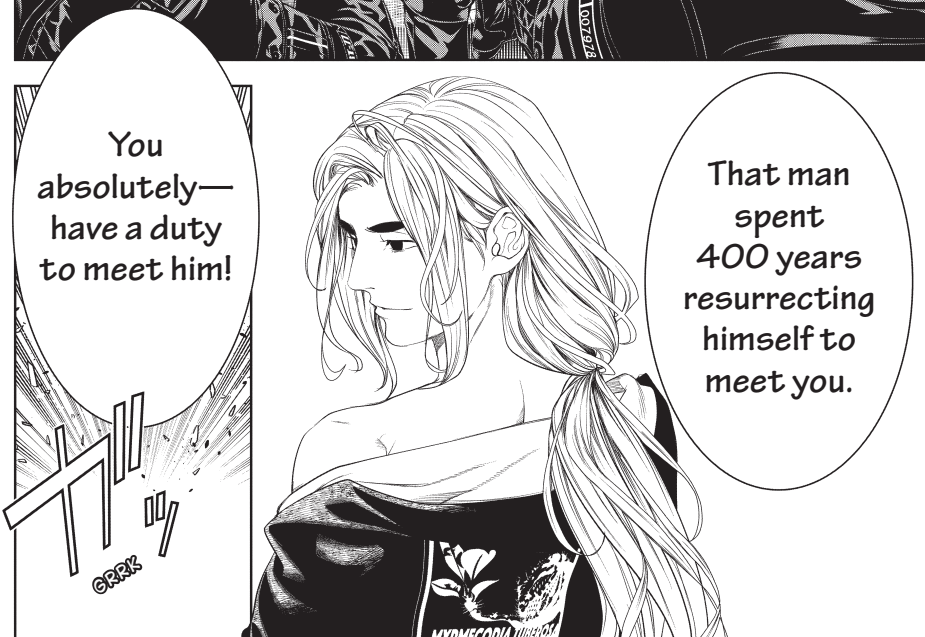

STOP MOANING AND JUST MEET HIM! IF YOU WON'T DO IT YOURSELF, THEN DO YOU WANT ME TO JUST DRAG YOU TO HIM BY FORCE?!

KRASSSSHH
How foolhardy—to do that to me.
Thou hast my respect for it.
...And so, as an adult who has lived for 500 years, I shall show lenience to a brat such as thee.
Apologize now and I shall forget this happened.

GRRRP
You're just a coward running from her past.
500 years? Who cares.

I know you could kick their asses no matter how many of them there are—and I'd help you, too!
You're surrounded by an army of soldiers holding guns—so you can't move.
That's clearly nothing but an excuse!
GRRK

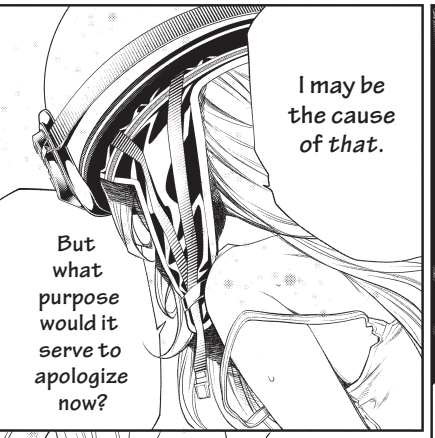
Ba/RW


You absolutely—have a duty to meet him!
GRRK
That man spent 400 years resurrecting himself to meet you.

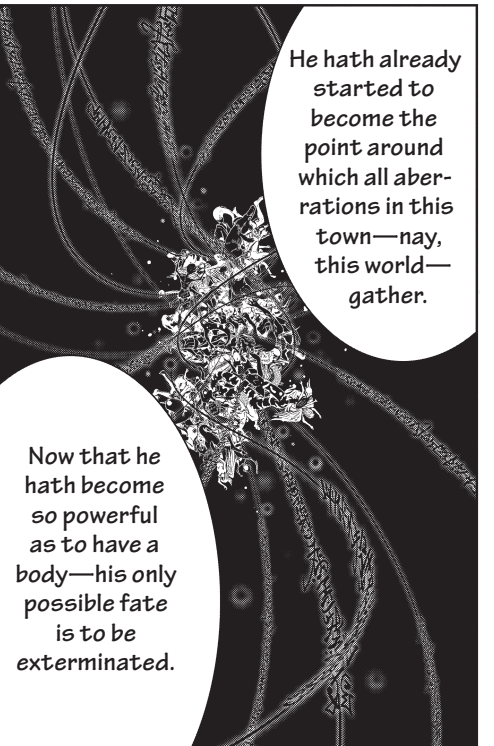
GRRRRRK
HE TURNED TO ASHES— AND HIS BODY WAS BURNED OVER AND OVER!
HOW COULD IT POSSIBLY GO UN-REWARDED?!
THAT SUFFERING! THAT MIRACLE!
THAT WOULD JUST FEEL...
...SO HOPE-LESS!
HOOH
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
SHEPPT

I shall later inquire ...
BWING
...from whom thou heardst that tale.
...!
TINGLE

Even were I to meet him now! I would have no words for him!
Thou knowest not a thing!
Keep thy words of foolish sympathy to thyself, ape!


I may be the cause of that.
But what purpose would it serve to apologize now?

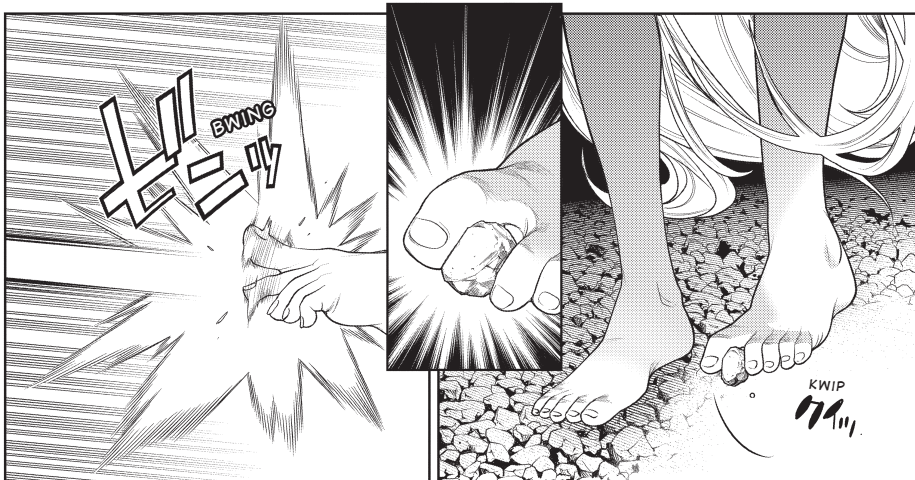
What is past... is past.


He hath already started to become the point around which all aberrations in this town—nay, this world—gather.
Now that he hath become so powerful as to have a body—his only possible fate is to be exterminated.

GRRRRK
ギャキャキャキ…
ゴギャーッ
GA-KLANG
You should just come out and say it— Shinobu.
ズズンッ
ZWOOMP
You're scared. You're scared of meeting him.

THE EMOTIONAL WEIGHT OF A LOVE THAT'D HAVE HIM SPEND 400 YEARS COMING BACK TO LIFE IS JUST TOO MUCH TO BEAR!
AND YOU DON'T WANT TO HURT HIM OR BE HURT BY HIM— JUST SAY IT!
...and instead wandered to and fro like a lost child.
though I went to see him, I could not muster the courage to meet him...
When I learned of his return—
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE THE KING OF ABERRATIONS?! A LEGENDARY VAMPIRE?!

JUST A LITTLE GIRL WHO'S SCARED OF GHOST STORIES!
YOU'RE EXACTLY WHAT YOU LOOK LIKE!
Fear


BWING
KWIP

CA-KLANG

KRAKL
KRAKL
KRAKL
Are those your final words?
Kah-kah!

...I don't like how weirdly calm he's acting... given the situation. I can't afford to make a careless move here...
...Hey. If you're thinking of flying off.
There's no point, okay? We've also got an armed bat unit in position above you.
Huh?
I am waiting.
For— God's will.

...
Because we're both thralls—
with the same master.
Will she be a goddess of redemption—or...
Shall we not wait together,
Koyomi?
Yeah.
That's why I was the only one—who could understand Mister Seishiro's words.
Let's wait.
Because the same blood has been shared with us both.

I...love my senior Senjo-gahara.
I love my senior Araragi, too.
Despite the fact that no matter how long I wait, I'll never see the day when either one of them returns the feelings I have for them.

That's why whenever I see someone's feelings of love for another going neglected—
I just can't stand it.
...
No.
Hey!
...the conversation over there has come to a conclusion ...
It seems ...
I would also like to wait a little while.

Let's go.
Both of them ...
...are waiting for closure.

Continued in Volume 20

The battle to end it all has begun.
To choose one side is to not choose the other.
However she may try to look away or pretend not to see it...
BAKEMONOGATARI 20

# Next Volume Preview

***BAKEMONOGATARI (manga) 19***

Kodansha Digital Edition

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